

*Oral Questions*

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not have to take lessons from the minister on listening. Will the minister make serious representation to his colleagues with respect to the recommendations and observations made by the Auditor General about the spending of unallocated funds—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It would have been better if the hon. member had not tipped his hand by indicating he was about to make a representation. The hon. member for Central Nova.

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## STATISTICS CANADA

## PROPOSED REVIEW OF HIRING PRACTICES—USE OF CONTRACT PERSONNEL

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the President of the Treasury Board. Is a review of the hiring practices at Statistics Canada under way to see if they are in conformity with Treasury Board practices, particularly in the Systems Development Division since there are now between 40 and 45 contract employees there in proportion to 170 regular employees?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** If the hon. member will take it from *Hansard* rather than from the order paper and written questions, most certainly I will listen to the hon. member's representation.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's response. Keeping in mind that the contractors retained by Statistics Canada are doing work which can be done just as well by regular employees at much less expense, and that none of these contracts appear to be for the performance of certain well defined tasks or the completion of a project for any agreed upon fee, will the minister take special note and investigate this matter himself?

● (1430)

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I note the hon. member's comments.

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## ROYAL COMMISSION

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY—  
INVESTIGATION OF BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS PRIOR TO  
APPOINTMENT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the same minister and ask him if an examination was made, before this commission was set up, relative to the background of the several people appointed? I ask this because the minister said that only last evening he found out Mr. Caron's record. Certainly, the record was

[Mr. Andras.]

generally known. I ask the minister this: were those appointments approved of by Mr. Pitfield, before they were submitted to cabinet? I ask whether Mr. Lambert, an estimable person, was appointed because of his desire to control salary levels, he having recommended that deputy ministers should be paid up to \$60,000 per year; and was Mr. Stoner appointed, a former clerk of the Privy Council—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Quiet, you rabble.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am trying to help the minister. I ask whether Mr. Stoner was appointed because he was the former deputy minister of transport during the Sky Shops affair, and whether Professor John Hodgetts—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Surely, the right hon. member realizes that he is well embarked on a clearly argumentative line of questioning.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am inquiring for information, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I ask about Professor Hodgetts this: whether the government agrees with the views expressed in one of his books, that the civil service is—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The line of questioning of the right hon. member is clearly argumentative.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I am amazed. The people opposite, when they fear information, endeavour to howl one down.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the right hon. member realizes that only rarely and with great reluctance do I interfere with his line of questioning. He began by asking a question about what consideration was given to these appointments. That was a perfectly legitimate question. I asked him to desist from the continuing line of individual representations with respect to each member. The question as to what considerations were taken into account in appointing the commission is, it seems to me, legitimate, and perhaps the minister wants to answer it; but I cannot let the right hon. member go on seriatim with respect to every commissioner and representations concerning each one.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I am always happy to show my respect for the Speaker. The Speaker is the protector of the rights of members in all parties.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!