

Inquiries of the Ministry

biculturalism in concluding its final report, and when can we expect this report to be tabled?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot add anything to my last reply to this question except to say I have been urging the commission to complete its work at the earliest possible date, subject to the importance of the work. I have also been urging it to produce a report before the end of the year.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
DECISION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Prince Edward-Lennox): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister and the cabinet reconsider their decisions in respect of bilingualism, in view of the vote of the Quebec Liberal Federation last week end against bilingualism and for unilingualism?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member realizes that a question is not automatically accepted for the adjournment debate. It would have to be considered by the Chair and a ruling made whether the question is in order. I have serious doubts about this question, which seems to have provincial implications. In any event, I would be pleased to look into the matter if the hon. member gives notice of his intention to raise the question at the adjournment debate.

Mr. Alkenbrack: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, and with due respect to your observations, those provincial implications also have serious national implications.

SHIPPING

ICEBREAKING IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. At this particular time of the year can he give the maritime ports, particularly Halifax and Saint John, an assurance that his department has made no basic changes in its icebreaking policy with respect to the lower and middle parts of the St. Lawrence river, and if there have been any changes would he point them out to us?

[Mr. Skoreyko.]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the question asked should be answered. The hon. member is asking for a statement of policy. Perhaps there is an argument in favour of allowing an answer, if it can be brief.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think I can do it briefly. It is very difficult in the matter of icebreaking to keep warm, but as I have a warm heart I may say that there is no change in policy.

FINANCE

REPORT OF CARTER COMMISSION ON TAXATION—ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether the minister is today in a position to answer a question I asked a few days ago. Could he tell us when we may expect the report of the Carter Commission on taxation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to give an answer in supplement to something I said the other day in reply to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. First of all, may I say I am not yet in a position to say when the report will be brought down.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked a question on November 15 relating to the report of the Royal Commission on Taxation. He asked whether the commission is making revisions in any of the chapters on which advance drafts had earlier been sent by the commission to officers of my department. I am advised that during the past year all of the chapters have been revised in greater or less degree. I am told that the commission is working on some chapters now which the department has not seen at all.

In reading the hon. member's question, I find that an unfortunate inference might be read into it. In order that there be no misunderstanding, I should state that none of these revisions has been sought by the officers of my department, to whom advance drafts have been sent on a confidential basis. As I advised the house last January 24, and in a written reply February 9, draft chapters have been sent to some officials of my department in