

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—ONE-CANADA POLICY

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Does the Acting Prime Minister feel that spending \$2 million of the taxpayers' money on a specific group of university graduates from one province is in keeping with the government's proposal for a one-Canada policy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is inviting the minister to express an opinion and in those terms the question is not in order.

## PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—RCMP INQUIRY INTO DISCLOSURE OF MEMORANDUM

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, since the Acting Prime Minister has investigated the actions of members of cabinet to find out where the leak was, would he inform the House whether the RCMP have been asked to conduct an investigation into the leaking of the confidential memorandum on the special program to provide employment for Francophones in the Public Service?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Why not, Mr. Speaker?

## PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—APPLICATION TO NOVA SCOTIA

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. When this program is under way, will it also apply to Francophone students from the province of Nova Scotia? Will they be given every opportunity to participate?

**An hon. Member:** Include New Brunswick as well.

**Mr. Muir:** Will they have the same opportunity as the students of any other province?

**An hon. Member:** Including New Brunswick.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope so, and if there were any danger that in any way we were not giving all Canadians an equal opportunity to join the Public Service—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You are not.

**Mr. Sharp:**—then I would certainly think that the government ought to be condemned. But I do not think that it should be condemned just because special efforts are being made to bring more Francophone Canadians into the Public Service. I have been a public servant and I know about this—

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

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Forrestall:** There speaks an ex-mandarin.

**Mr. Muir:** If the Acting Prime Minister seriously and sincerely believes what he is saying, why did this memorandum only mention Francophone students from the province of Quebec and not the province of Nova Scotia where there are many French-speaking students?

**Mr. Sharp:** The answer is very simple. This is not the whole of our program.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Translation]

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN NUMBERS TO BE EMPLOYED UNDER PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONES

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Since the number of 250 French-speaking civil servants represents only a small part of the federal civil service, could the Acting Prime Minister say whether the government would consider increasing the number to about 2,000 to make it a fair proportion of French-speaking employees?

SUGGESTED EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Considering the importance of the French-speaking representation within the civil service and the comments which could reduce it, could I ask the Prime Minister—

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

**Mr. La Salle:**—if you would be kind enough to let me ask my question, you will perhaps understand what I mean.

I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he can assure us that the memorandum, in view of its importance, will be tabled as soon as possible in the House in order to enable those who wish to have a fair representation in the civil service to support it?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see some support from the other side of the House.

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

**Mr. Sharp:** When the estimates are under consideration, we have promised to facilitate all proceedings and to get all the facts before a committee of this House and the House. We have nothing to hide in this respect.