

acceptable means of increasing this proportion, which would cost about \$2 million.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, if I understand the minister's statement correctly, the cabinet approved the hiring of additional Francophones but this memorandum was sent out without the cabinet's knowledge. This document, which violates the merit principle in the Public Service Employment Act, was sent out without the Prime Minister's consent. May I now ask him whether the government intends to take any action with reference to this violation contained in the memorandum which was sent out without the consent of any minister, including the Prime Minister?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what the imagined offence is. I have tried to explain. We are looking at a part of the process of endeavouring to find a feasible plan to give effect to the government's intention. It is inevitable that in this process all courses of action will be explored, some of which will be good and some of which will be bad. The bad ones I hope we will not accept; the good ones I hope we will. I look forward to the not too distant future when we will have a good and feasible plan which will be consonant both with the merit principle and the expressed intention of the government to increase the proportion of Francophones in the Public Service.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's statement that the government is seeking for a plan, may I ask him if he has read the second last paragraph in the memorandum which says that to "help speed up the implementation of the program, it is proposed to hold a preliminary meeting" on such and such a date? Is this not a program already, a program on which a telephone survey had already been conducted, and a plan which had been put into effect by the Public Service Commission without the knowledge of the government?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat surprised that a man who has headed a government, albeit in another place, should be so unaware of the processes of government. I have explained to him that until such time as a so-called program receives the formal approval of the Treasury Board it is not a program, and this proposal which is being canvassed and explored had not been submitted to and consequently had not received the approval of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I seek some clarification from the Prime Minister. When he said a few moments ago that the intention was to employ 250 Francophone Canadians out of a total of 1,250, did he imply or mean to imply or to suggest that the other 1,000 would be Anglophones? May I ask him in all sincerity to explain what he meant in order to prevent further misunderstanding?

Mr. Trudeau: Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, it was foreseen that the government would need about 1,250 university graduates in the coming year. According to the way

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these processes have operated in the past, everyone knows that of the requirements of the government the overwhelming majority of them have been Anglophone rather than Francophone. It was in order to try to redress this imbalance, which has perhaps been the result of lack of policies in the past, that the government wanted to ensure that there would be at least a minimum of 250 who would be Francophones. If there can be more, well and good, but obviously, because of the way the administration has operated in the past, they did not come automatically. We never had the proper percentage. In order to permit the government to implement effectively its policies of bilingualism, we must spend a little more to make sure that we have at least this minimum of one-quarter which, as the hon. member knows, does not even correspond to the percentage of Francophone people in the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister which, if answered, will I think allay some of the confusion and misunderstanding relating to the government's policies in the development of Canada. With respect to its attitudes and its policies, is the government basing these matters on the fact that Canada is a bicultural country or a multicultural country?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it is a multicultural country but a bilingual one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period expired a few moments ago, but perhaps we might recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre for one more supplementary.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, may I add to my answer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Prime Minister could add to his reply when replying to the hon. member's supplementary question.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a very simple and direct question which I think will clarify what has taken place this afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Which is it, a feasibility study not yet approved by Treasury Board, as described by the President of the Treasury Board, or a firm project approved by cabinet last November? Which is it?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, last November the cabinet authorized the expenditure of an additional \$2 million if a feasible plan could be found. In order to find such a feasible plan—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Is the House interested in the answer or not, or are members trying to make political yards? That seems to me a rather narrow approach to the question.