

Inquiries of the Ministry

sess the copyright to the words of "O Canada" and that no royalties are being charged, contrary to the impression left in the House last Friday by the right hon. member for Prince Albert, as reported at page 9713 of *Hansard*?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

CANADIAN CULTURE**MULTICULTURALISM POLICY—OBJECTIONS BY PREMIER OF QUEBEC**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. It concerns a matter raised by the Premier of Quebec in connection with a statement made recently by the Prime Minister in regard to Canada being a multicultural society. Have there been any definite objections raised by the Premier and, if so, what has the answer been in regard to this very important matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at the federal-provincial conference last week the Premier of Quebec did tell me that he was sending me a letter on this matter to explain his position vis-à-vis the position of the federal government. I have not to this date studied his representations, but I hope to do so soon.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the importance of the statement made by the Prime Minister some time ago, can the Prime Minister assure the House and the people of Canada that he and the government will stand by his statement as originally uttered?

Mr. Trudeau: That is our position, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM**SUGGESTED CHANGE IN NAME OF COMMISSION**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State a supplementary question.

Having heard what the minister had to say last night on television about multiculturalism, I would like to ask him whether he intends to change the name of the well known BB Commission to BM commission in order to stress the multicultural character of that body?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be difficult to change the name of a body which no longer exists.

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[English]

TAXATION**REQUEST THAT SCHOOL BOARDS BE GRANTED SAME STATUS AS HOSPITALS UNDER EXCISE TAX ACT**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister

[Mr. Francis.]

advise the House whether or not a decision has been taken by the government on the request of Canadian school trustees that school boards be granted the same status as hospitals under the Excise Tax Act?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would have to take the question as notice.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SUPPLYING OF AUTO PACT INFORMATION BY EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO U.S. SENATORS PRIOR TO VOTE ON EXEMPTION OF CANADA FROM SURTAX**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would the minister inform the House whether or not, prior to the debate that took place in the United States Senate a week ago Saturday which led to a vote that, if it had been resolved in the affirmative, would have exempted Canada from the imposition of the United States surcharge, officials of the Canadian embassy in the United States informed members of the U.S. Senate on the question of the auto pact and, more particularly, whether or not Canada had reneged on the auto pact?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I find that question very complicated. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would simplify it and I might be able to answer.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, my question is whether or not Canadian officials at our embassy in Washington took steps, prior to the vote a week ago Saturday in the U.S. Senate, to inform U.S. Senators about Canada's position on the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, our position on the agreement is probably well known, but any negotiations that have taken place have been between embassy officials and members of the United States administration.

[Later:]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, might I put a further question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs following the answer he gave me. Do I understand the minister to say that, in terms of important questions or problems that exist between Canada and the United States, the government of Canada has direct contact in regard to the provision of information and so on only with part of the executive branch of the United States government and does not deal with the legislative branch?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think we take much the same view as would be taken of efforts by the administration of the United States to deal directly with Members of Parliament here. It would be permissible but sometimes does not produce the best results.