

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Breton:** May I ask a supplementary question. The Postmaster General just said a system had been installed by the Department of National Defence, and an estimate made in March of last year of \$30,000—

**Some hon. Members:** Order paper.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Order paper; question No. 18.

(Translation):

**Mr. Hector Dupuis (St. Mary):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. From the answer he gave a moment ago, I understand that the government proposes to give special consideration to this matter of simultaneous interpretation. He told us a committee had been formed to study the matter. I would like to know when this body was set up and who are its members.

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, the original plan was to keep the simultaneous interpretation system which had been set up in this house for the universal postal congress. It was discovered that this system, having been used for simultaneous interpretation in four languages, was far too cumbersome and required the setting up of cabins for the interpreters. We therefore concluded that it would be impractical—

**Mr. Dupuis:** Do it with part of the \$500 million you intend to save.

**Mr. Balcer:**—and could not adequately provide for a perfect simultaneous translation service. We have therefore decided to appoint a committee which I believe will be made up of the Speaker, representatives of the various parties and representatives of the departments concerned. I cannot say at this time who the members of the committee will be nor when their report will be ready, but you can be assured that instructions have been given to appoint a committee.

**Mr. Dupuis:** Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken,—it can be checked in *Hansard* tomorrow—the Solicitor General stated that a committee had been appointed. Well then, he did not answer my question, because I asked him when that committee had been appointed and who were its members.

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, the committee has been appointed or will be appointed shortly. The order has been given but unfortunately I am not aware of the choice made of the members of the committee. Moreover, I am not the one who has given the order—

**Mr. Dupuis:** When a person does not know about something, that person should not talk about it.

(Text):

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

PRINTING BUREAU—REPORTED REQUEST BY  
EMPLOYEES FOR INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Has any action been taken with respect to the request of the printing bureau employees for a wage boost?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Secretary of State):** I am afraid I do not understand the hon. member's question. I do not have a request in that form.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Did the Secretary of State not receive a request from the printing bureau employees to meet with her to discuss this matter?

**Mrs. Fairclough:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Better see the Postmaster General.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—INCREASE IN SALARIES OF  
TEMPORARY STAFF

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, or his parliamentary assistant or any suitable minister. Will the increase which was granted to the permanent staff of the House of Commons be granted also to the temporary staff? Has it been approved and will it be retroactive?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Secretary of State):** I believe this is a matter under the jurisdiction of Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Oh, no.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** Oh, yes.

[Later:]

**Mr. Speaker:** If hon. gentlemen will permit me a word I would like to reply in particular to the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Richard). The Speaker is not ordinarily asked questions and does not ordinarily make answers; nevertheless I understand the hon. member's question related to the increases in pay for the temporary sessional employees.

**Mr. Richard (Ottawa East):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.