

Census Debate Requested

why we should discuss the matter fully today so that the minister might throw some light on the appointment of agents or commissioners for the 1966 national census. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to your sound judgment—I know your good sense—so that we might discuss this fundamental question, for it is important, and so that we might give our students the opportunity to earn that amount to enable them to continue their studies, instead of cutting up the pie, like the Liberals are now doing, through political patronage; that is intolerable in a country such as ours.

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to add a few remarks on the importance and urgency of the debate to those of the members who have preceded me.

With regard to the importance of the debate, it is of capital, utmost importance for there are irregularities which prove patronage and favouritism. In the riding of Sherbrooke the commissioners are five federal Liberal organizers, one of whom is the brother of the Liberal candidate who was defeated in the last elections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wish to remind the hon. member for Sherbrooke that he must—and this is also for the guidance of other speakers—discuss the urgency of the debate.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, it would be a lot easier for us to make our views known, if the hon. members on this side of the house gave us a real opportunity, despite the inconvenience the matter may cause them, to express ourselves.

The importance and urgency of the debate must be shown. This matter is very urgent, for there are hardly 20 days left, as the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) pointed out, for the re-appointment of objective and impartial commissioners, regardless of the choice of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, that is either through the newspapers or through objective and impartial public bodies, such as the senior chamber of commerce, the junior chamber of commerce or the national employment service, registering in my area many unemployed people of various education levels who would be in a position to earn \$1,100. There is also the students association of the University of Sherbrooke. This is why it is urgent.

Mr. P.-E. Trudeau (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the question of urgency is relative. The question raised by [Mr. Caouette.]

the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) is important and urgent, but only from the point of view of political partisanship, from the politicking point of view.

As was explained by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith) and the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Turner), the house will have an opportunity to discuss this problem when considering the estimates in question.

The political manoeuvring which is going on here is not what the people are expecting from us, I think.

There are important and urgent questions on the order paper. But, so far as this matter is concerned, the people are more interested in the passing of a piece of legislation for the Commonwealth than in wondering whether we will be helping friends of the party in power or of the opposition. This is an urgent question in a very minor field, and a few days difference will not change the ordinary procedure of the house.

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, in thirty seconds I can prove that there is no urgency to debate this matter, and to support my point I will quote a statement from a speech delivered on May 3, 1966 by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), as reported in *Hansard*, page 4648, second column:

You will have to admit that this is the final inconsistency and stupidity, to be forced to talk about scandals.

The hon. member wants to speak about a scandal. Is it any wonder then that confederation—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I rise on—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member resume his seat?

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member for Lapointe resume his seat?

I am asking hon. members to co-operate with the Chair so that the business of the house may be carried on in an orderly manner. During the past hour or so, hon. members have been discussing a strictly procedural point of order on which I hope they will very shortly allow the Chair to make a ruling.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to correct the statement made