Inquiries of the Ministry

NATIONAL PARKS

FAILURE OF CERTAIN XAVIER COLLEGE STUDENTS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS PARK GUIDES—SELECTION CRITERIA

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for Canada's national parks. In light of information from Professor Dr. Donald Arseneau, placement officer at Xavier College in Sydney, that of 23 students at that college who applied for positions as park guides not one was successful, would the minister cause an investigation to be carried out to ascertain whether this discrimination came about as a result of the bilingualism requirement?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I shall inquire into the matter and report to the hon. member. I must admit that it is desirable that in all national parks there be people who can address visitors in both official languages.

[English]

Mr. Muir: I share the same hopes as one who supported and voted for the language bill. In view of the assumption reached by Dr. Arseneau as quoted in the press that "the implication of recent legislation seems to be that a person has less opportunity of obtaining a job with the federal government if his native language is English", may I ask the minister if he can advise the House whether, in selecting applicants for these positions, the basic criterion is that one must be bilingual and other qualifications are not important?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, in the preceding question, I stated what the general principles were. I am going to inquire as to whether a special problem exists in Cape Breton Highlands National Park and I shall report to the hon. member.

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AS RESULT OF BRYDEN REPORT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the government House leader who I understand is in charge of the report of the Bryden Committee. Can he advise the House whether the government has completed its deliberations in that regard, whether in fact it is contemplating legislation by way of amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act and, if so, when does the government intend to introduce this legislation?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that it is not the intention of the government to bring in amending legislation at this session.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

In reply to the first part of the question, may I say that the study of the Bryden report is not yet completed and conclusions have not yet been reached as to what course of action should be followed, if any, as a result of the study.

Mr. Alexander: I was under the impression that the study had been completed and that a report had been submitted. Can the government House leader advise the House when he expects the investigation to be completed and therefore when the report is expected?

Mr. MacEachen: I cannot put any definite time limit on the study stage.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Thursday, May 11, consideration of the motion of Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) (page 2178), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Saltsman (p. 2182).

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my budget remarks today by dealing with the Michelin tire case in Nova Scotia. Perhaps the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) or a spokesman of his will arrange to deal with the substance of the issue before the debate concludes later tonight. There are two very important questions in the Michelin tire case. The first concerns an agreement that was made to grant the Michelin Tire Company a three year period during which time they would be permitted duty free entry into Canada of tires produced elsewhere. The attempts made by me in the last ten days to elicit a clear and unequivocal answer from the Minister of Finance on this situation have been, to put it euphemistically, not entirely successful.

• (1520)

I have a letter here, sent to me by the minister's precedessor, now the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Benson), dated June 21, 1971, the third paragraph of which reads:

The government has agreed to permit the Michelin company to import certain types and sizes of tires duty-free for a period of three years—

Later in the letter he made reference to the fact that the government intended to permit the Michelin Tire Company duty free access to the Canadian market so far as certain lines of tires were concerned. What are the implications of this? They are now clear, Mr. Speaker, and they should have been clear at the time these negotiations were entered into with the Michelin Company. We already have seven tire producing firms operating in Canada, Mr. Speaker, most of them located in Ontario but

[English]