

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

violate the whole merit principle of the Public Service Employment Act, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he knew about this memorandum and whether it was issued with his authority?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there is no agreement on my part that it violates in any way the merit principle. On the contrary, as the President of the Treasury Board said in his statement to the press, it is the intention of the government to seek to hire something like 1,250 university graduates in the Public Service next year. That 250 of them should be Francophone does not seem to indicate that there would be any violation of the merit system. It seems to me rather lower than the proportion that the B and B Commission tends to recommend as Francophone members of the Public Service.

**Mr. Simpson:** What about bilingualism?

**Mr. Trudeau:** What have you got to say?

**Mr. Simpson:** What about bilingualism?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I had not finished the answer. The question asked was whether I had knowledge of the memorandum. The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, since the question of bilingualism in the Public Service is not the question at issue but rather the matter of authorizing the expenditure of money and taking steps to bring people into the Public Service through the back door rather than through the front door, I want to ask the Prime Minister if he knows who did authorize the issuance of this memorandum and, if he does not, would he undertake to find out?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the memorandum was issued pursuant to a decision of cabinet last November.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition but the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond seeks the floor on a question of privilege.

**Mr. MacInnis:** I rise on a question of privilege. It is based on the answer just given that this memorandum was put out by direction or decision of the cabinet. In that case, it is time this House called on quite a few members of the government to resign because they told the House otherwise.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister arising out of his answer that it was intended to hire 1,250 persons in a particular category, of whom 250 would be Franco-

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

phones. Am I to conclude from this that the other 1,000 positions may be filled only by Anglophones?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I will come to the hon. member for Calgary North in just a moment.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I would like the Prime Minister to clarify his answer. The President of the Treasury Board and the Acting Prime Minister both said they had no knowledge of this memorandum. The Prime Minister now says this step was taken as a result of a decision by cabinet last November. If the cabinet authorized this memorandum, may I ask the Prime Minister how it is that ministers in his cabinet did not know anything about it?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, it is because the memorandum itself was not seen or authorized by the cabinet.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Make up your mind.

**Mr. Trudeau:** My mind is made up.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, when the President of the Treasury Board said, and I am paraphrasing him, that this was not approved by cabinet, at that time so far as his conscience was concerned was he telling the truth in the House of Commons as a member of the cabinet?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** The answer, Mr. Speaker, is quite simply yes. I was telling the truth. If the hon. gentleman will refer to *Hansard*, page 2753, he will find I made reference to a lack of comprehension, which apparently still persists.

**Some hon. Members:** Where?

**Mr. Drury:** I said:

It is well known that the government has expressed its intention and desire to increase the proportion of Francophones in the Public Service. To this end it is willing and has declared its willingness to devote additional resources toward the accomplishment of this purpose if satisfactory means are proposed to achieve this. The process we are looking at here—

That is this celebrated memorandum.

—is part of an exploration of possible means of achieving this purpose.

I repeat again that it is the declared intention of the government to raise the proportion of Francophones in the Public Service. The government has declared its intention to devote additional resources to this end, up to \$2 million if need be, if a feasible method of accomplishing this purpose can be found. The memorandum to which the hon. gentleman from Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands refers is the beginning of the process of finding an