

Inquiries of the Ministry

members would be on an equal footing, that is those who live far away and those who live nearby. It is true that travelling expenses and telephone charges incurred by members living in Halifax or Vancouver are higher than of members living in Montreal or Ottawa, or still nearer.

I think it would be advisable for the house to recommend to the members of treasury board to make a decision as soon as possible on this point and to make their decision consonant with section 1 of the bill which is retroactive to April 8, 1963.

[Text]

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, speaking to the point of privilege may I say I hope that when the internal economy commissioners discuss this matter, they will give no consideration to accepting the request which has just been made.

FLOODS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—ACTION TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, with every passing hour the flood situation in British Columbia gets that much worse. I wonder if I might pose a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and ask whether he has any up to date information to relay to the house on the action taken to prevent very serious damage in that province.

Mr. Speaker: On the grounds of urgency I realize that flood conditions out west are really a very serious matter in the Fraser valley, the Skeena area, and so on. If the minister has anything to say, let him say it.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have some information on the condition of the rivers in British Columbia as of about yesterday noon. This is the time of the year when great concern is felt in the valleys of a number of our rivers. I think the Fraser river is rising at the rate of about one foot per 24 hours, and this will be reflected at the gauge at Mission in about three days. There has been some flooding already in the case of the Skeena at Cedarvale, about 65 or 70 miles east of Terrace. The flow in the Columbia drainage basin is rising much less rapidly. We are particularly concerned over the fact that precipitation has been somewhat higher and run-off has been greatly delayed. The chief

concern in the province of British Columbia to date, of the provincial people and those in areas that are organized, is the outlook for the weather. Yesterday the weather was in the 60's and low 70's in the interior of British Columbia; today it is expected that the temperature in most of the interior areas will rise to 80 degrees and that there will be a temperature of 75 degrees at Prince George.

My hon. friend from Skeena is fully aware of the problems that situation poses for us. We have every evidence that the officials of the province of British Columbia and the civic authorities, wherever they are stationed, are aware of the situation and are doing their utmost to prepare for it.

Mr. Howard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the minister, or perhaps the minister responsible for E.M.O., whether any agency of the federal government is prepared to assist in any way if the situation does get out of hand?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that the government of Canada would act, in the normal course of events, upon application of the government of the province of British Columbia.

PARLIAMENT HILL**REQUEST THAT R.C.M.P. IN ATTENDANCE BE BILINGUAL**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct a question to the Minister of Justice, but in his absence maybe the Prime Minister could answer.

As the number of tourists coming from all over Canada to visit parliament increases with the coming of the summer months, and as the parliament buildings themselves should be an example and a model as far as integral bilingualism is concerned, could the Prime Minister give us the assurance that he will see to it that all R.C.M.P. constables on duty on parliament hill are bilingual, that is are able to understand and to make themselves understood in both languages?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be very glad to look into that matter, Mr. Speaker.