

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Skoreyko:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I would ask the Minister of National Defence to make a thorough check in his department, and perhaps more preferably an inquiry of his second in command, Mr. Lee, to find out whether such a circularization did in fact take place.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence?

Would it not be quite normal for this circular stating that promotions would be given to bilingual rather than unilingual Canadians to have been sent to the armed forces?

[Text]

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, there is an increasing emphasis being placed in the armed forces on the ability to speak two languages. It is well known that in our service colleges we are encouraging young people to acquire greater familiarity with both languages. We also point out to potential recruits the advantages of joining the armed forces in that they will have an opportunity to become more familiar with the two languages. We have also pointed out to all young people that it would be a wonderful idea for them to learn the two languages, particularly if they want to be generals ten or 15 years from now. I am sure we have not circulated any such announcement, as suggested by the hon. Member. If we have I am not aware of it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question?

[Text]

**Mr. Nielsen:** I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems to me that the Chair should recognize the hon. member for Edmonton East who asked the original question on this subject.

**Mr. Skoreyko:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether his expression regarding two languages necessarily refers to English and French, or does it apply to other languages as well?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, as my friend is aware, the two official languages are English and French. We have a number of people in the armed forces who are trained in other languages for special reasons and positions, such as those individuals who are appointed as military attachés, or to special duties. If

[Mr. Hellyer.]

some of our young officers have ability in more than two languages—and indeed some of them have learned three or four or five—they have an added advantage which makes them that much more useful in carrying out certain duties.

**Mr. Ricard:** Identify the one you said is nonsense.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** I have a supplementary question I should like to address to the Minister of National Defence. I am sure he did not wish to mislead the house, but is he not aware that—

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Caron:** You ought to know about misleading.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Hull interjected that I should know what it is to mislead the house.

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

**Mr. Ricard:** That is why they set up the Dorion Commission, to find out about misleading on the part of the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I do not take exception to that kind of statement, except to suggest that it is the common type of statement made on that side of the house. If the hon. member has any specific incident in mind let him make a charge.

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

**Mr. Caron:** The report that was made to the Dorion Commission was quite different to the report made here in the house by the—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Starr:** Does the Minister show you his reports?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The word “misleading” seems to be having a depressing effect this afternoon. May we get on with the regular business?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, the supplementary question I wish to ask is for the purpose of giving the Minister an opportunity to make a full explanation. Is he not aware that several months ago I put a question to the now Minister of Public Works, who at that time was Associate Minister of National Defence, with regard to whether an order had been issued from either the office of the Minister of National Defence or the Associate