

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICESTATEMENT ON PAYMENT OF BILINGUAL
BONUS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet I could give an answer to the question put a few days ago by the member for Lotbinière.

I may say that an additional payment of 7 per cent of the salary was established about two years ago for secretaries, stenographers and typists holding a position in a department where bilingualism is required and who make use of their knowledge to a large degree. The Public Service Commission has been endeavouring for some time to set up proficiency standards and means to appraise the competence one should possess, before considering an extension of the bonus principle to other classes of employees. We are expecting a report on that subject. It is easy to understand that the clerical classes are much more complex and varied than the stenographer classes.

Mr. Speaker, as for the part of the question dealing with the staff of the House of Commons, I must point out that those employees come under your authority.

[English]

FINANCEREQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FEDERAL
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the indication that the expenditures in the current year will exceed the original estimates by some \$400 million, and in view of the estimate of a respectable financial house that the revenue of the government might be some \$250 million less than the estimates, will the Prime Minister indicate to the house whether the estimates of revenue for the current year will in fact be as projected, or above or below the projection?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Leader of the Opposition will expect me to answer speculations of financial houses, reputable or not, about the budget, which will be discussed very soon in this house.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I was not asking my right hon. friend to answer a question asked by a respectable financial house, but to answer a question asked by myself.

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO LOBSTER FISHING LICENCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries which is urgent inasmuch as fishermen must know immediately where they stand in this respect. My question is whether the minister is contemplating any changes in the method of lobster fishing licensing for the coming season and, if so, will the minister announce these changes?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, we do not contemplate any changes as of this moment, but future changes will be announced in due course.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As a conservation measure, has the minister given any thought to amending the lobster fishing regulations so that fishermen would be required to immediately return to the ocean all female lobsters when caught, whether carrying seed or not; and has he received any representations along these lines from the Atlantic provinces fisheries ministers?

Mr. Davis: Some representations have been made, Mr. Speaker, and the matter is under study.

CONSUMER AFFAIRSAUTOMOBILES—REPORTED OVERPRICING OF
SAFETY DEVICES, SPARE PARTS, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister of consumer affairs. In view of the mounting allegations that the auto industry is overpricing its safety devices, repair parts and its products generally, can the minister indicate whether the government intends to commission an investigation or hearing into these complaints?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): As I said previously, Mr. Speaker, I am considering whether there should be a standing committee on consumer affairs appointed by the house. I have also said that the whole question of costs is under review by the government, and particularly