

*Inquiries of the Ministry***PUBLIC SERVICE****INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
BILINGUALISM—REQUEST FOR
CONSULTATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. May I ask the Prime Minister if he will consider holding consultations with the civil service staff organizations before he and his colleagues reach a final decision in relation to the report of the interdepartmental committee on bilingualism in the public service.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): My hon. friend knows that the interdepartmental committee had consultations with all those concerned. Its report is now before the government. I would be very glad to give consideration to my hon. friend's suggestion.

**REPORTED STATEMENTS BY MINES MINISTER
RESPECTING BILINGUALISM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of National Defence I believe. In view of statements made by the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys to the effect that all recruits to the civil service will have to be bilingual, is it the intention of the Minister of National Defence to issue the same directives with regard to recruits for the armed forces.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): I rise on a point of personal privilege. I should like to say some words to the hon. member on—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): A supplementary question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, Mr. Speaker. Was the minister stating government policy, when he said, as he is reported to have said, that civil servants in western Canada who have reached the top of their departments in that area will not be eligible for senior positions in Ottawa unless they are bilingual?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that they refer to Beauchesne, citation 171, which is to the effect that a question, oral or written, must not refer to a speech made outside the house. In the case of a cabinet minister it is permissible to ask the Prime Minister whether such a speech represents the policy of the government. I do not

[Mr. Speaker.]

think the question, in the way it was asked, can be accepted at this time.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would he say whether the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys was stating government policy when he said, as was attributed to him, that civil servants from western Canada who have reached the top of their department in that area will not be eligible for senior positions in Ottawa unless they are bilingual.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The hon. member referred to a statement alleged to have been made by the minister. Naturally I am not going to comment at this time, until I confirm that statement. It may not have been said.

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**GEORGE VICTOR SPENCER—ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS IN STATEMENT BY
PRIME MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister?

Could he tell us whether consultations took place among cabinet members before he contradicted himself a second time Friday and disowned the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) and a few other ministers with regard to the Spencer case?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is probably aware that he cannot put questions referring to consultations held among members of the cabinet.

[English]

**GEORGE VICTOR SPENCER—REQUEST FOR
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INQUIRY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister. May I ask him if he is in a position to table a copy of the terms of reference of the inquiry which he said on Friday would be set up in connection with the Spencer case?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Perhaps the hon. member would wait until we come to the estimates of the department concerned, when I shall have something to say.

Mr. Fulton: A supplementary question. My question is simply whether the Prime Minister is in a position to table the terms of reference; whether they have been set up and