

most important and urgent question. As we stated yesterday on the telephone to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters), who is responsible for the appointment of the commissioners, it would have been better to appoint students, university people, people who are capable, regardless of their political leanings, to carry out the 1966 census. The Liberals overruled all. When we claim that party favourites were appointed as commissioners—

Mr. Laflamme: Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the hon. member?

Is the hon. member aware that in my riding the census enumerators were appointed after consultation with the secretariat of Laval University?

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand the official list of those appointed by the minister. The following names are listed: Albert Quesnel, chief Liberal organizer in Rouyn-Noranda; Mr. Côme Lapierre, candidate at the Liberal convention for the election of last November 11; Mr. James V. Hardy, of Bourlamaque; Mrs. Marcelle Seewaldt, Mr. Roméo Smith, of Cadillac, the same thing again.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve is now discussing the subject matter itself while we are considering a question of procedure dealing with the urgency of the debate under the rules of the house.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I understand that, under the rules, we might not have the right to name those people; however, we have the right to say that those people command \$1,100 each, which represents \$5,500 in one riding.

It does not matter that students belong to Liberal or Conservative families, but the students and not the patronage handlers should be in charge of that organization.

The urgency is so important and so valid that on March 24, in reply to the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Dionne), the minister said this:

The appointment of census officers also falls under my jurisdiction, but because of their great number, approximately 35,000, I will delegate that responsibility to each census commissioner—

That means that the Liberal patronage handlers in various ridings will now choose those who will work for the census.

Census Debate Requested

Mr. Speaker: I feel it is my duty to intervene by reminding the hon. member that what is before us is just a matter of procedure, a matter which is very limited, namely if there is any urgency of debate.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lapointe will kindly allow me to conclude my remarks.

I heard the remarks of the hon. member for Lapointe which are, in my opinion, somewhat outside the scope of the matter of urgency and importance, or pressing importance of the debate. It seems to me that we should try not to prolong the discussion. We have hardly touched on the substance of the matter during the last hour. To all practical purposes, it seems to me that we have had a debate. In any case, I will allow the hon. member for Villeneuve to conclude his remarks.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

I would like to point out that standing order 26 relating to the debate uses the words "matter of urgent importance" and not the word "urgency".

I know that, in the English text, the word "urgency" is mentioned. But I submit that, in the French text, it is the word "importance" and that if we have two official languages in Canada, the French text is as valid as the English text. We are using the French text, and it is the matter of importance and not the matter of urgency. However, French is taken only as a language of convenience, a language of translation.

Mr. Caouette: All we want, and I believe it is urgent and important, we asked it before bringing up the matter in the house. We asked that changes be made, that the list of commissioners be cancelled and that appointments be made regardless of political considerations: we do not want political organizers appointed in those ridings. That is what we object to.

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I remind the hon. member for Villeneuve, and others as well, that they are now discussing the subject matter rather than the urgency of the debate.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the matter is urgent and it is important to know, for instance, who suggested those names. That is