

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question? Can the minister tell whether the three appointments made by the government can be called "co-operative bilingualism"?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that I shall do everything possible to appoint French Canadians to the Department of Industry. However, I must recognize, unfortunately, that with the competition given us by the Quebec government, I find it quite difficult to find competent French speaking candidates.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a kind of argument, and I would point out to the hon. member that this is question time.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry. I should like to know what steps he took or what inquiries he made to find bilingual or French high officials for his department before asserting that he could not find qualified candidates?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think that question could not be answered orally on the orders of the day.

[Later:]

Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Following the answer given by the Minister of Industry, could he tell us whether that statement means that he chooses himself the deputy ministers in the various departments of his administration?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to appoint deputy ministers.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry.

The minister complained a short while ago of a lack of French Canadian applicants in his department. Why could not Mr. Lavigne, who holds the fifth position in his department, be appointed deputy minister, so as to give fair treatment to French Canadians and to recognize their rights.

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[Text]

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES IN DESIGNATED AREAS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry. Is he in a position to mention a single new industry established in one of the designated areas since the enactment of the legislation?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Yes, Mr. Speaker. For instance, in the town of La Malbaie, the construction of a new plant for Reynolds Aluminum is being started.

Mr. Caouette: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister mention another new industry that would have been established in the Abitibi area?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I must thank the hon. member for his question, but for the time being I cannot think of any other example.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Is not that new aluminum plant being established at Murray Bay precisely because this company has concluded a very important contract with the federal government, which will endeavour to absorb the company's production in years to come?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question. That is an argument or a statement.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I feel that my question was quite in order and I raise a point of order.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: The question is out of order. The hon. member for Port Arthur.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that whenever a member raises a point of order, he has the right to do so. That is what the hon. member for Lapointe is asking just now.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Port Arthur.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

According to the rules, when a member rises on a question of privilege I believe that the Speaker must listen to that question of privilege.