

Senator Davey: I asked a question on November 5, 1985, and on December 3, 1985, which has not been answered. I am going to try again.

I wonder if the leader could update me on the status of the Department of Supply and Services omnibus public opinion poll for which tenders have been in place since the end of August 1985. That is now my third try with this question.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I think my honourable friend's question presupposes that the Department of Supply and Services or the government has a policy in respect of this matter of which I am not aware. I do not think there is any omnibus poll policy in effect at the present time.

Senator Davey: My apologies; I did not hear the response. I wonder if the leader would mind repeating his answer.

Senator Roblin: My honourable friend is implying that there is an omnibus public opinion machine in effect in the government service at the present time.

Senator Davey: I am sure the Leader of the Government would know if one were about to be put in place, because there has been a great deal of discussion about it, and that is why I asked the question.

Senator Roblin: There is no such policy at the present time.

Senator Davey: I have a supplementary question concerning an article by a most distinguished journalist, Mr. Hugh Winsor, writing in the *Globe and Mail* on January 16, 1986.

Senator Marshall: Distinguished?

Senator Davey: I think so.

Senator Frith: Reasonable and patient also.

Senator Davey: He says that the proposal has been placed on the back burner because the cabinet fears it could backfire politically. Is that an accurate assessment of the situation?

Senator Roblin: I do not, as a rule, accept it as part of my responsibility to comment on what journalists say. They are entitled to their opinions, and I respect their opinions, but I do not necessarily have to comment on them or agree with them.

Senator Davey: Even if it is a distinguished journalist?

Senator Roblin: Even with as distinguished a person as my honourable friend.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

RECRUITING PRACTICES OF RCMP

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I should like to pose a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

It is my understanding that the RCMP is recruiting personnel to perform guard duties at embassies and that some of the applicants are being told that only applications from people who are fluently bilingual will be entertained. To my mind, this is rather unfair, because an individual who is unilingual

French or unilingual English certainly will not have an opportunity to qualify for one of those positions.

I do not expect the minister to carry all this information around in his head, as brilliant as he is—and I mean that sincerely. Would he try to find out for me whether there is a school where, if the applicant qualified in every other way, he could be taught English or French in order to be admitted to the RCMP?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I do not know the facts of the matter and I will be glad to answer my honourable friend's question if I am able to. However, I would not be surprised if a bilingual qualification were necessary for guards at embassies, in view of the bilingual character of the country and having regard to the nature of the traffic into those buildings. I will, however, try to get more information about the school that is the subject of my friend's inquiry.

Senator Muir: I fully agree with what the Leader of the Government in the Senate has said.

Senator Guay: You should.

Senator Muir: But I still think it is not fair to other citizens of Canada who have not had the opportunity to become fluent in both official languages. Those who can speak only English are disqualified from receiving consideration for recruitment to the RCMP as are those who can speak only French. With all of our language training courses and so on, should people who are otherwise suitable not be given an opportunity to enrol in these schools and thus make themselves eligible? I shall be happy to provide some information on this matter to the Leader of the Government, if he so wishes.

Senator Roblin: I think that I should stick to my original answer and see what information I can get.

FILM INDUSTRY

IDENTIFICATION OF CANADIAN PRODUCTION LOCALES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, I should like to raise a question relating to the Canadian film production industry. That industry has made enormous strides in recent years. Canadian production units, processing laboratories, writers, actors and producers have achieved world-wide eminence, yet they deserve even more credit than they are given in certain circles. For example, the Canadian film industry is often compared unfairly and unfavourably with the Australian film industry. One of the reasons may well be because Australian productions are identifiably Australian; they are clearly filmed in Australia. In my following remarks, I do not mean to indict the present government alone because the problem which I am referring to has existed for some time.

Over the past 15 years, many millions of dollars have been expended and a number of incentives have been put in place by the federal and provincial governments to encourage the development of a Canadian film industry as well as to attract more foreign film companies to Canadian production sites. Film production is now a big industry in Canada. Among the