

[Text]

PURCHASE OF CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

Question No. 381—Mrs. Cossitt:

1. Since September 4, 1984, has the Department of Secretary of State purchased 27,500 sets of Canadian encyclopedias and, if so (a) at what cost to the taxpayer (b) for what reasons (c) to whom were they distributed (d) what was the name and position of the highest authority who approved the purchase?

2. (a) Was the contract let by public or invited tender (b) what were the names of the firms who submitted bids and, in each case, what was the amount of the bid (c) what was the name and address of each successful bidder?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Secretary of State and the Department of Supply and Services as follows:

1. In July, 1983, Treasury Board gave authority to enter into a contract with Hurtig Publishers Ltd. and subsequently a contract was awarded by the Department of the Secretary of State in March, 1984 to Hurtig Publishers Ltd. The Contract called for the supply in September, 1985 of 20,000 sets of *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (English version) to the Department of the Secretary of State. However, the Secretary of State has subsequently approved Mr. Hurtig's request to buy back at the original purchase price, 9,500 of the 20,000 sets purchased by the Department of the Secretary of State. A second contract was awarded to Les éditions internationales Alain Stanké Ltée. for the supply in 1986-87 of 7,500 sets of *L'Encyclopédie du Canada* (French version) to the Department of the Secretary of State. Payment for the encyclopedia is to be made upon delivery.

(a) The English version costs \$62.50 per set and the French version \$125. The total anticipated cost of the purchase and delivery of the 18,000 sets of *The Canadian Encyclopedia* is \$1.7 million.

(b) The Department of the Secretary of State is committed to promoting a sense of belonging among Canadians of all cultures. The encyclopedia will make available a record of our achievements, environment and people in a comprehensive Canadian reference book. It will serve to increase knowledge about ourselves.

(c) Hurtig Publishers Ltd. requested that the encyclopedia not be distributed until the official release date of *The Canadian Encyclopedia* by Hurtig Publishers Ltd. on September 6, 1985. The encyclopedia will be donated by the Secretary of State as a comprehensive Canadian reference book to departments and agencies of Government, to university and college libraries, to Canadian studies organizations and to Members of Parliament and Senators. A number of copies will also be made available to the Government of Canada Gift Bank as gifts for dignitaries. It will further be distributed to youth organizations by the International Youth Year Secretariat, to foreign universities, libraries, consulates and embassies by the Department of External Affairs. The distribution plan is currently being finalized by officials of the Department of the Secretary of State.

(d) Treasury Board approved this purchase on the recommendation of the Secretary of State.

Point of Order—Mr. Lewis

2. (a) No, the encyclopedia, which is Canadian in content, was developed, printed, and published by Hurtig Publishers Ltd., who possess sole proprietary rights; Stanké was authorized by Hurtig to publish the first edition of the French version, as a consideration for doing the translation.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Mr. Lewis: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The question enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

ALLEGED UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I gave you notice of this point of order prior to the commencement of proceedings this morning. I think this is our first opportunity to bring the matter to your attention. I would ask that you review the remarks of the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) contained at page 11558 of *Hansard*, remarks which were originally enunciated in French and therefore difficult for those of us who are not bilingual to pick them up. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that you may find those remarks to be unparliamentary.

We are in some difficulty here. The Hon. Member has complained recently about remarks that are alleged to have been made about him. I suggest that all of us have to come to the House with clean hands and clean language. I do not think the Hon. Member for Bourassa has done so in this case. I think there were two infringements, at least in the English translation, of parliamentary procedure and parliamentary language. Naturally we are in your hands and you may decide whether or not you find them to be unparliamentary.

Mr. Gauthier: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Lewis: I'm up on a point of order.

Mr. Gauthier: Point of privilege then.

Mr. Lewis: All right, I will yield the floor.

Mr. Gauthier: Could we at least know what page we are talking about? It is not normal for the Hon. Member to go on at length without telling the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Hon. Member has indicated—

Mr. Gauthier: It's only one rule—