

Oral Questions

Sport. In this morning's edition of *La Presse*, the Canada Sports Pool Corporation was described as a veritable nest of patronage reserved for members and friends of the Liberal Party of Canada. The article went on to give names and appointments in support of this allegation.

Given that, above all others, any national organization devoted to support Olympics, medical research, and amateur sport, should be free of such allegations, I want to give the Minister the first opportunity to deny categorically the allegations contained in that article. I ask him if he is in a position now to give the House, and the country, that categorical denial?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Members of this House that the newspaper article in question, which says that friends of the Party in power were appointed to the Canada Sports Pool Corporation, does contain a modicum of truth, but there are also some statements that are entirely wrong. Certainly, there were people who belonged to the Liberal Party, but there are also individuals who belong to the Progressive Conservative Party, and I cannot deny that either. What I can say is that belonging to a political party is not, and never will be, a requirement for appointment. In this area, the Canada Sports Pool Corporation was led by a concern for competence and success. The basic requirement as to select individuals who had been successful with Loto Canada, before the Progressive Conservative Government decided to abolish the Corporation and hand over \$500 million to the provinces, and that is strictly what happened.

[*English*]

Mr. Jarvis: We in this Party look for competence and success also. But if there are any profits flowing from this sports pool, our concern is that they are not skimmed off by the sticky fingers of a bunch of Grit hacks. That is our concern.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER ASSISTANTS TO MINISTERS

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): I wonder if the Minister could explain, Mr. Speaker, if it is by design or by coincidence that the ex-president of his riding association has received an appointment; that one organizer and one former assistant to the Minister of Finance received an appointment, and that a former Minister's assistant received an appointment in Manitoba. Are we to believe that that is sheer coincidence, or is it not, frankly, sheer design on behalf of the Liberal Party?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, as I said before, belonging to a political party is not a requirement for appointment to the Canada Sports Pool Corporation. However, if intelligent

individuals have decided to support a political party, this is a free country, and if they decide to do so, they can. Now, if my hon. friend opposite wants me to publish the names of people on the other side who have asked me to try and support certain appointments, I am willing to do so, and I should be quite happy to reveal the names of those hon. friends opposite.

[*English*]

QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): In that case, Mr. Speaker, if nothing else but in the interests of fairness to Liberals everywhere, I wonder if the Minister could make public the qualifications for appointment. For example, is a 72-hour Liberal qualified, or must he or she have been a long-term member? If he or she is a donor, for how many years and for how much? The simple question is this: what are the qualifications for these Liberals before they receive the Minister's permission to jump into the porkbarrel and wallow around at the taxpayers' expense?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, once again, the Progressive Conservative Party did not spend enough time on its homework.

Let me give an example. Notices were published across the country. In fact, the Opposition Critic mentioned that jobs were available with the Canada Sports Pool Corporation. There were 1,200 job applications across the country. We are still examining these applications and interviewing prospective candidates.

Membership in the Liberal Party, Progressive Conservative Party or the New Democratic Party is not a requirement. However, if there happen to be intelligent individuals in the Canada Sports Pool Corporation who support the Liberal Party, all I can say to them is: thank you! They are just smarter than the rest. They know we want to do something for amateur sports. They know we want to make the Pool a success. In fact, we want to try and make up for the complete mess the Progressive Conservative Party made when it signed the agreement in 1979 and gave everything to the provinces, leaving nothing for amateur sports in Canada, for the Calgary Olympics, the Canada Games, the Panamerican Games or the Commonwealth Games! That was the policy of the Progressive Conservative Party.

● (1420)

[*English*]

Mr. Bosley: And, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals will never bring in wage and price controls either.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!