

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. de Cotret:** The contract was given to the firm which was judged the most competent to give the best value for the money of Canadian taxpayers. That is the basis on which this Government gives all its contracts.

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**CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

## RIGHTS TRIBUNAL APPOINTEE, MADAME MOREAU-LANDRY

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and is with regard to the appointees to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. In defending those appointments yesterday the Minister of Justice said that the decision was made on the basis of competence.

I have looked through the curriculum vitae of Madame Moreau-Landry and I sent a copy of it to the Minister to refresh his memory. There is nothing in it which is relevant to service on a Human Rights Tribunal. Was the Minister's decision about the competence of Madam Moreau-Landry based on this CV which his office made public, or did he consider other information and representations in making his decision about her?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's question points out that we do have scrutiny of appointment provisions in our new rules. The Hon. Member is quite entitled to request that Madam Moreau-Landry appear before the committee where she can answer these questions directly. The Hon. Member need not take my word for it. He can speak to her himself and ask her the questions he thinks appropriate about her qualifications.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister, not the candidate whom we will examine in due course.

## BASES FOR MINISTER'S DECISION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, was the Minister's decision based on this curriculum vitae, or did he make the decision based on other information and representations? If so, what were they?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the appointments which I am responsible for bringing before Cabinet I try to recognize a number of factors, including the fact that we want to have competent women and representatives of minority groups involved in this process. Indeed, I believe that 15 of the 28 people who were appointed are from backgrounds other than English or French. I think it is important to have a cross-section of Canadians available in a pool from which an independent chairman can select these tribunals, depending upon the circumstances.

**PENITENTIARIES**

## PORT-CARTIER PRISON—ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Would he explain to the House why the contract for architectural services at Port-Cartier was not put out to public tender but only to a list of selected suppliers? Canadians thought we had put an end to the stench and nonsense of this selection process—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member has put his question and is going into argumentative debate.

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Hon. Member was here last Friday when I explained, in some detail, the process which was followed. We always put construction projects out to public tender. Another process is used for engaging consultants. This process has been in place and approved by Treasury Board for a very long time and has withstood the test of scrutiny.

• (1430)

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Those were the old Liberal guidelines that we thought we were rid of in this country.

My supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General. Yesterday the steering committee of the Justice Committee adopted my motion to ask the Prime Minister to appear before the Justice Committee to clear the air on the patronage and corruption which appear to surround the Port-Cartier prison deal. My question is very straightforward. Will the Solicitor General assure the House that the Prime Minister will in fact appear before the Justice Committee, as the Steering Committee has asked him to do, and come clean with respect to this deal?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I think I have already answered that question. I will be more than happy to appear before any committee of the House, and give all the details.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** We did not ask you. You are not invited.

**Mr. Robinson:** The Prime Minister, Bob, not you.

**Mr. de Cotret:** Do you want the information?

**Mr. Robinson:** We want the Prime Minister.

**Mr. de Cotret:** Do you want Canadians to know—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Laurier.