

Oral Questions

Government is committed to reviewing human rights matters occurs later in the year. It will occur in October or November of the year.

That is what the Minister for External Relations stated. It is quite different from what the Hon. Member alleged. It is entirely consistent, not simply with the actions and statements of this Government at the Francophone Summit and elsewhere, but also with the recommendations of an all-Party committee of this House.

FOREIGN AID BUDGET CUTS

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, given the enormous cuts to the foreign aid budget and the Government's assurances that foreign aid will be made more effective, can the Minister assure the House that the Government will immediately make human rights records a criterion for granting foreign aid, immediately?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member is more accustomed to dealing with issues that are 29 or 30 years old. She asked for us to do it immediately. We did it last year.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

COMPUTER CONTRACT—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation, my question is for the Acting Minister. The Minister and the Government will know of the very serious allegations in the media and in the Canadian Press report whereby the common law spouse of the Director of Materials and Services Contracting Division of Canada Post has allegedly received a lucrative contract to sell \$8 million worth of computers to Canada Post Corporation.

Given that that information has been known in the media and by others for some weeks now, has the Government had an opportunity to review the case and to report to the House concerning the very serious allegation in question?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have been in touch with the Canada Post Corporation and it informed us that it has, as one would expect, a well established set of guidelines with respect to conflict of interest. I am informed that it has followed those guidelines to the letter in this case, as it does in other cases.

Ms. Copps: They better rewrite them, then.

[Translation]

REQUEST TO KNOW IF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the acting Minister responsible for Canada Post. From the answer the Minister just gave, we know that the conflict of interest guidelines are apparently being followed at this time. Did the Minister or the Government check whether the conflict of interest guidelines were followed at the time the contract was awarded?

• (1200)

[English]

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by Canada Post that not only does it have a set of conflict of interest guidelines but, as far as it is concerned, in this particular instance the corporation says that they set a good example of how to conduct business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There will be one further question. The Hon. Member for Moose Jaw—Lake Centre.

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AGRICULTURE

PROVINCIAL SOIL AGREEMENTS

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

On May 3 last the Minister told the House that the reason he had not signed the soil and water conservation accord and soil agreements with Saskatchewan was that he wanted to ensure that they complied with all the criteria. The agreements for Saskatchewan, along with the agreements for Alberta, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, are on the Minister's desk awaiting his signature. There are no negotiations presently taking