

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## SUPPLY AND SERVICES

## CONTRACT AWARDED TO UNITED STATES CITIZEN

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Yesterday's *Citizen* reported that a two-year contract had been signed in February 1984 by the previous Government with an American who was paid exorbitant fees for his services in marketing a Canadian gold coin. Does the Minister intend to investigate the matter, since this person is under contract to other Governments and since according to a Canadian bank, experts were available in Canada?

[English]

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, this particular individual is a New York broker who is working for other Governments as well as that of Canada. He signed a contract with the Canadian Government on February 1, 1984. There have been some media reports that he has done very well by the contract. We have to acknowledge that he has done so. In hindsight, we probably would not have signed the same contract today, but giving him all the credit to which he is entitled, he has done very well. He has increased the share of Canadian gold bullion from 22 per cent of the market to 64 per cent.

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## PUBLIC WORKS

## LETTING OF CONTRACTS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. It is with regard to the letter from the Member for Quebec East which the Deputy Prime Minister asks us to believe was a mistake which was corrected. As long ago as the fall of 1984 the Prime Minister admitted that the Roberge group exists, that the Member for Quebec East is a part of it, and that he, the Prime Minister, consults that group from time to time.

Is the Deputy Prime Minister prepared to let a committee of this place review the work of the Roberge commission, which advises the Government after its weekly meetings, in order to learn how it operates, what recommendations it has made, how they have been made, and what the real role of that letter is?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Hon. Member and the House that contracts under \$30,000 are let under Treasury Board guidelines established by the previous administration. I suggest that the present administration is just as pure, or maybe a little more so, than that of the last 16 years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary. Very short. Immediately.

## INQUIRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I will address my supplementary question to the Attorney General. Has he reviewed this letter and the practice of this committee in light of Section 110 of the Criminal Code which deals with shakedowns by officials of the business community?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member's first question was very lengthy. That is why I asked him to be very brief with this one.

● (1440)

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I heard the explanation of the Deputy Prime Minister. I am quite satisfied with it and I do not understand why the hon. gentleman would not be.

**Mr. Henderson:** You have to be, John.

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## AGRICULTURE

## SITUATION OF FARM WOMEN

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The Government's lack of effective economic assistance for farmers has forced farm women to carry an unbearable triple workload. What has the Government done in the Budget to relieve farm women from having to be a full-time farmer, home maker, and off-the-farm worker in order to make ends meet?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. This Minister and this Government certainly recognize the tremendous contribution made to the agri-food industry by the women of this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wise:** I hope the Hon. Member would give us credit for establishing, for the first time, the Family Farm Focus Program. I am meeting with the leaders of farming women's groups very shortly to establish a program of this kind. I hope the Hon. Member would recognize that this Budget, in cooperation with my colleague—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is becoming a speech.

## CHILD CARE INQUIRY

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is meeting with farm women will he ask them what their feelings are about child care? Will he explain to them why the Government has nothing in the Budget for child care which is desperately needed by farm men and women?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the Hon. Member recognizes there are