

Oral Questions

Mrs. Campagnolo:—first of all, I should like to apologize to him for endowing him with a lawyer's degree, which I understand he does not have.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Campagnolo: Second, the lottery corporation, Loto Canada, was in contact with the Department of Supply and Services with regard to the letting of the contract to General Instruments, to make sure the contract was in all respects properly compiled with respect to the Government of Canada.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in response to my question about whether there was a cancellation clause included in this particular contract, the minister refused to answer on the ground that there was a secrecy clause which prevented her from so doing. What was the reason for the inclusion in that contract of a secrecy clause which forbids Canadians knowing the provisions of the contract for \$23 million to provide computer services?

● (1442)

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question is really a repetition of the question asked yesterday. When the contract is completed, and when General Instruments have reached an end to negotiations with Loto Canada, as I have said, I will be pleased to table in the House of Commons the information which will provide the answers the hon. member is looking for.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this minister is not prepared to disclose to parliament why the secrecy clause was included; therefore, I would like to address my supplementary to the Minister of Supply and Services.

In view of the fact that his department was partly responsible for negotiating this costly contract, will he tell the House what possible justification there could be for the inclusion in the contract of a secrecy clause which denies Canadians the right to know the provisions of that \$23 million contract, including whether or not there is a cancellation clause in it?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, on several occasions since the Loto Select file was opened my department has been involved in various aspects and stages of the issue; further, when we started negotiations with the General Instrument Corporation, they refused to give us specific details on the unit cost because of its—

[*English*]

—pricing strategy and its price in competition with other firms. What we did succeed in obtaining, though, is what we call the best price for the best customers. I have been convinced by officials in my department who have looked at the last transaction and other lotos which have been concluded by some states in the United States that we did obtain the best prices.

[Miss MacDonald.]

As the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) has said, we have not yet wrapped up everything, but I can assure the House that after everything is settled, in order to protect the legal rights of the state I will publish every detail of that transaction.

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FISHERIES

NEWFOUNDLAND—RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. At the recent federal-provincial conference of first ministers, on the economy, the minister when speaking of fisheries' development said, "they resisted chasing pie in the sky in the sea", which reminded me of a statement made by a former Social Credit leader when he said, "If this issue catches fire, it will snowball all the way across the prairies." The minister also said that the value of the fishing industry depends upon what is done on shore, and that in this area there was little or no action being taken by the provinces in spite of the fact that it came within provincial scope.

In light of the fact that the provincial minister of fisheries for Newfoundland, the hon. Walter Carter, has announced a program of resource management up to 1985 covering harvesting, the development of an inshore, midwater and offshore fleet, plus upgrading the quality of fish and the training of fishermen; in fact, a program that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crouse: I would ask the minister how he can say that no attention is being paid by the provinces to the problems of fishermen, and when can we expect an announcement of federal participation toward the carrying out of the plan announced in Newfoundland?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I wish the hon. member had not taken the pie in the sky example, because I consciously put it in there to bring to the attention of some people a very simple reality, namely, that the 200-mile zone and the oceans, if we take care of them, will help us; but we cannot expect them to support every aspect of the economy. It was one way of underscoring that fact, and I thank the hon. member for helping me to do so.

I also wish the hon. member had read the entire text of what I said at the premiers' conference, because he would find that the message I was trying to get across was that if the provinces—which are generally responsible for what happens to fish on shore—were discharging these responsibilities, then the real wealth of the 200-mile zone would be realized, because that is where the great development will take place.

With regard to the program brought forth by the province of Newfoundland, I think it contains many positive elements and I am happy to see that that government is moving closer