

S.O. 21

would provide affordable and decent housing for thousands of people who need it.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister responsible for constitutional matters and his Quebec counterpart met last week in Ottawa.

On that occasion it was decided that officials assigned to the dossier would meet in February. As a Member from Quebec, I am delighted with a decision that proves once again that this Government is prepared to conduct serious negotiations with the various parties concerned so that Quebec will become one of the signatories of the constitutional agreement. The House will recall that Quebec, both under the *Parti québécois* and the Liberals, has refused to sign the 1982 constitutional agreement because it fails to allow for the specific aspirations of Quebecers.

I earnestly hope that the Ministers in question will be meeting very shortly to further expedite the favourable settlement of a matter that is extremely important to all Quebecers and all Canadians.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

OERLIKON'S DECISION TO LOCATE IN QUEBEC

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) says that the Opposition in the Parliament of Canada has no right to obtain details regarding the Bissonnette-Bazin affair. If he will not listen to the Opposition, perhaps he will listen to Calgary Mayor Ralph Klein and a Calgary city MP who said yesterday, as reported in the *Calgary Herald*, that they believe political strings may have been pulled in a defence contractor's decision to locate in Quebec.

Klein and Calgary East MP (Mr. Kindy) suspect government intervention may have been involved in the decision to locate a new plant on 100 acres of vacant land near Saint-Jean.

On Monday Kindy said he was aware that the deal was almost struck for Oerlikon to locate in Calgary "but there was some kind of intervention".

Art Smith, past co-chairman of the Calgary Economic Development Authority, said Oerlikon officials told him they got a "better deal on land costs and servicing" from Saint-Jean. "The one thing that Calgary could not offer was a

guarantee that it would get the \$600 million defence contract if it located here", said the Mayor of Calgary.

The people of Canada want explanations, not only on the alleged criminal aspects of this particular affair but on what role the Government of Canada played in the allegations that have now been suggested by the Conservative Member of Parliament for Calgary East.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LAUNCHING OF LITHOPROBE PROJECT TO STUDY EARTH'S CRUST

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) and the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines (Mr. Merrithew) together with NSERC have announced a five-year \$25 million research project to investigate, using the latest in high technology equipment, the earth's upper crust. This project, known as Lithoprobe, was five years in the planning and will require extensive field experiments in four regions of the country. Some of Canada's best young scientists in our universities, government, and industry will be involved in one of the largest such projects ever undertaken in Canada. The four regions of experiment are the southern Cordillera in B.C., the Abitibi-Grenville greenstone belt in Quebec and Ontario, the Kapuskasing region in Ontario, and Newfoundland.

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The project will concentrate on structural and earth forming processes, but the findings will be of long-term value in leading the way to hidden mineral and oil deposits in Canada, thus ensuring our economic future.

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INCOME TAX

NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES BY HIGH INCOME EARNERS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, every day hundreds of thousands of Canadians buy lottery tickets with the hope of hitting a tax-free jackpot.

Yesterday Revenue Canada released a report which shows that you do not have to win a lottery to beat the tax man, all you have to do is be rich enough to afford a good tax lawyer or tax accountant. The recent report cites figures that show that in the latest taxation year for which figures are available there were 1,830 Canadians who earned over \$100,000 per year and who paid not one cent in income tax. In other words, they hit the jackpot. This Government allowed them to make the windfall because it is not interested in closing loopholes like