

the House appreciates the difficulties being faced by small businesses across the country.

Small businesses were encouraged in April when the minister indicated he would bring in a small business development bond this year. In a press release on June 13, he indicated again that the bond would soon be introduced in the House. At this stage it would appear unlikely to be brought in this session. In view of the fact that it will take two to three months for the banks to implement this piece of legislation on behalf of small businesses, this government might have the distinction of implementing policy after it has expired. Would the minister please indicate to the House when the small business development bond will be introduced?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Madam Speaker, in his question the hon. member referred to the fact that the Minister of Finance has already had, in a new release, the opportunity of indicating what guidelines will govern that technique. I can assure him that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice will give urgent attention to the preparation of that legislation. The minister did indicate, when he tabled the ways and means motion in April, that he wanted that legislation, once it was tabled, to be discussed sufficiently to acquaint the House with the details of its application. In addition, the Minister of Finance still intends to make that information available to small businesses as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Riis: I have a short question, Madam Speaker. Is it true that the minister is now considering excluding operating capital from this piece of legislation?

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: Madam Speaker, the terms outlined in the news release recently put out by the Minister of Finance will govern that instrument, and nothing has changed since that press release was issued.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

APPOINTMENT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF PERSONNEL— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. It is a fact that human resources and the management of those resources is as critical as financial and capital resource management, and training and development are essential components of human resources planning. Given the support in the Lambert commission report and the d'Avignon report and many others, including the latest report from the Comptroller General, can the minister confirm that in these days of new systems, new programs, new techniques and

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skills he is seriously considering the appointment of a comptroller general of personnel so that the government can maintain, and possibly improve, the quality of the public service, and that among the many responsibilities of this comptroller general of personnel would be responsibility for putting into place a new policy on personnel training and development?

● (1150)

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, first let me thank the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier for his interest, support and advice in this entire area. The consideration of the appointment of such a person to such a post is something which is a recommendation of the Lambert commission and the D'Avignon commission.

Accordingly, in my direction of the review of these recommendations I will be bringing forward proposals for my colleagues with respect to the appointment of such a person to such a post. This government shares, as I am sure do all members of this House, the view that human resources are more important than financial resources in managing the affairs of this country.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE NORDAIR—ACTION TAKEN

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. About ten days ago the minister told one of his colleagues that he would, within the next few days, have a proposal to put before the prospective purchaser of Nordair. Has that proposal been put before the prospective purchaser, and can the minister give the name of the prospective purchaser? What action has been taken on the proposal?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I certainly did not say it in that way. I said that we had in the department established a number of criteria or objectives which had to be achieved. Later, outside this House, I said that we would be in touch with one of the potential acquirers, the group led by La Société d'Investissement Desjardins, to find out if they could satisfy the objectives which we had in mind to achieve. That process is going on now. I should have a report on the conversations held in the next very few days.

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LOTTERIES

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ACCUMULATED IN INTEREST

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that \$750,000 have accumulated in interest on the unclaimed Loto funds, will the minister begin issuing scholarships and internships, funds for our young athletes in need, before they leave for the United States, and also