

tional Development Agency and the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation as follows:

1. The criteria used for selecting recipient countries are as follows: (a) the recipient must be a developing country eligible to receive Canadian bilateral development assistance; (b) the recipient must be dependent on imported oil; (c) assistance must be consistent with the Government's international development assistance objectives and programs. The condition attached to the aid provided is that a maximum use of Canadian goods and services be assured.

2. No.

COST OF REFIT OF "CSS PARIZEAU"

Question No. 4,511—**Mr. McKinnon:**

1. Was a \$219,531 design contract for the midlife refit of the *C.S.S. Parizeau* recently awarded to Eyretechnics Ltd. without tender and, if so, for what reason?

2. Were any West Coast firms given the opportunity to bid for the refit contract of this West Coast ship?

3. For the 12 months prior to August 31, 1982, what was the total value of government contracts awarded to Eyretechnics Ltd.?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. A design contract was issued to Eyretechnics Ltd., without tender on March 9, 1982 for \$219,531.25. This firm was involved in the preparation of the statement of requirements and the correction of the drawings of the ship under a separate local contract for \$24,574.29. The contract for the final design was issued on a sole source basis as it was considered to be the most cost effective and time saving procedure in view of the fact that this firm was fully acquainted with the ship as a result of the initial contract.

2. Requests for proposals were restricted to the three West Coast ship repair firms which had the facilities to carry out the required work. (1) Burrard Yards Corporation (which later submitted the lowest bid and won this \$1.7M refit contract.) (2) Rivtow Industries Ltd. (3) Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd.

3. The total value of the contracts awarded to Eyretechnics during the 12-month period from August 31, 1981 to August 30, 1982 was \$4,786,367.

Note: Question 1 above refers to the design contract and question 2 refers to the refit contract.

[English]

Mr. Smith: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Borrowing Authority

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

**SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT,
1982-83 (NO. 3)**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed from Tuesday, February 22, 1983, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-143, to provide supplementary borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; and the amendment of Mr. Skelly (p. 22957).

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, on Tuesday last, I spoke on Bill C-143 and pointed out the impressive decline we have seen in recent weeks in the inflation rate in Canada. We know that inflation was a very serious problem in 1982 and that it had some disastrous effects on our economy. I am pleased, and I am sure most Canadians are, that as I speak today the inflation rate in Canada is down to 6 per cent.

Mr. Nickerson: No, it is not.

Mr. Harquail: I want to take this opportunity to bring additional good news to Canadians, particularly to consumers. The Bank of Canada rate as of this week is at 9.43 per cent. The prime rate for borrowing at the banks is 11.25 per cent. In my view, this is excellent news for the turnaround in the economy that we are all hoping for.

On Tuesday I also mentioned the increased housing starts. I mentioned that my friend, the Minister responsible for housing, the Hon. Member for Westmorland-Kent (Mr. LeBlanc), had laid out some very impressive statistics to prove this point. That has to be another aspect of encouragement. We know that these increased housing starts will create many, many jobs which we are all interested to see come into the work force in Canada.

Having laid that groundwork, I want to talk about confidence in the country. We know that the Conference Board has indicated in its recent analysis that there will be a continuation of the upturn in our economy. Senior business executives have been more optimistic about this turnaround in the Canadian economy. For instance, in *The Globe and Mail* recently, Mr. Ron Lawless, President of CN Rail, was quoted as saying that he sensed an uptrend and is optimistic about increased business that CN Rail will be able to enjoy in terms of the operation for which he is responsible within the group of CN companies.

In addition to Mr. Lawless's statement from CN headquarters in Montreal, there was a statement made by the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. George Urquhart. He is a fellow New Brunswicker. He expressed confidence and has praised, according to the article I have here dated February 15, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) for his sincere and honest work in bringing back that confidence we have all been working so hard for in recent months.