

*Oral Questions*

counselling and advocacy functions of the present department. I would like to know her personal position on this. It does not seem to me that to put this within existing departments achieves the function it is supposed to achieve.

Does the Minister agree that the Office is particularly important in view of the recent Labour Canada report confirming that the federal Government is not enforcing equal pay for work of equal value guidelines? Will the Minister initiate action immediately to reduce the over \$7,000 wage gap which still exists between men and women in the Public Service?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the Member has brought the subject up because it debunks the popular myth that the moment equal pay for work of equal value legislation is brought in, the world will collapse and we cannot afford to do it. It is proof indeed that the legislation must first be in place and that those affected must seek to have the rules applied. I do insist that this kind of legislation be applied throughout the country and that those women most affected make sure that in their next labour contract the equal pay for work of equal value legislation be applied. I want to reiterate that only 10 per cent of the work force is covered by this legislation, 90 per cent comes under provincial jurisdiction, and I urge the women of this country to bring about such legislation within their provincial boundaries.

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA HEADED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO LLOREDA CAICEDO

**Mr. Speaker:** May I call the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of a delegation from the Republic of Colombia headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo.

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

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**NATIONAL REVENUE**

REPORT OF AUDITORS' CONTEST TO WIN \$50 LUNCH

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. For the past three months he has refused to acknowledge that there is a malignant attitude existing in his Department. The most telling and striking example that I can think of was the one printed in *The Globe and Mail* last Saturday. A senior supervisory official, the Chief of Audit, sponsored a contest. The contestants were 20 groups of auditors comprising eight or nine auditors each. The prize was a \$50 lunch. The standards imposed were a maximum recovery of tax dollars, maximum penalization of taxpayers, and how quickly the files could be processed. What this senior supervisor was really doing was

putting a bounty on the taxpayers of Canada. Is the story as reported in *The Globe and Mail* accurate? Did such a memorandum exist? The context was that this was renewable every quarter. Is this \$50 lunch still the practice of the Toronto Department?

● (1450)

Who paid for the lunch? Was it going to be the Chief of Audit or the Department? Does the Minister approve of such contests as illustrated in the story in *The Globe and Mail*?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member should really ask only one question.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, in his first question, the Hon. Member asked whether the story reported in the press is accurate. It is not entirely accurate. Second, he asked how long the contest between a number of auditors went on. According to my information, it was suggested in August 1983 and it ended in December 1983. The Hon. Member also asked who paid for the prize awarded in the contest. No public funds were used. The Director of this group of auditors spent money out of his own pocket to reward the good work done by the auditing group he had to supervise.

[English]

**Mr. Speyer:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just substantially acknowledged the accuracy of the story. The story is absolutely the most disgraceful thing, because it puts a bounty on the taxpayers of Canada. This is the rule, not the exception, and that is what I want to get through to the Minister.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY—REPORTING STATUS OF DEPUTY MINISTER

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question has to do with ministerial responsibility. It has come to my attention that the Minister's predecessor, presently the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, had a conflict with his Deputy Minister. The conflict was in regard to whom the Deputy Minister reported to. Did he report to the Minister or to the Prime Minister of Canada through the Clerk of the Privy Council? I understand there was a memorandum of law composed by a Mr. William Rowe as a result of this dispute. Would the Minister inform me and other Members of the House whether, in matters of operation, the Deputy Minister reports to him or to the Prime Minister's Office? Will he table in the House the legal opinion with respect to the responsibilities of the Deputy Minister in the day-to-day operation of his Department?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, first, I believe the Hon. Member is aware of the practice that legal opinions formulated for a Minister are not