

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

CHILD ABUSE AND MORTALITY

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Anne C. Cools: Honourable senators, pursuant to rules 56(1), (2) and 57(2), I hereby give notice that I will call the attention of the Senate to the issues of child mortality, child abuse, neglect, deaths (CAN deaths), child abuse and child maltreatment in Canada, including the physical injury of children, parental violence and aggression, child neglect, the "failure to thrive" syndrome, psychological injury to children, parental manipulation of children, and misadventure suffered by children in Canada.

QUESTION PERIOD

CANADA POST CORPORATION

LEASE OF PREMISES IN SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA—INTERVENTION OF MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—REQUEST FOR ANSWER

Hon. J. Michael Forrestall: Honourable senators, is the Leader of the Government in the Senate in a position to table the terms of reference of the Price Waterhouse review I asked about yesterday?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I regret that I have not received a response in time for this Question Period. I will continue to try throughout the day and see what I can do for tomorrow.

• (1350)

Senator Forrestall: We have now learned of further allegations involving Mr. Dingwall and a \$1.5-million contract awarded to the Business Development Centre in Sydney. Allegedly, tender specifications were altered to suit a specific developer. Other local developers admitted that it would have been a waste of time to bid on this project since it was clear that a Liberal loyalist, Louis Friedman, was in line for the contract. All of this, of course, brings the question of the competitive process into disrepute.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate shed some new light on this round of allegations? Since there is no doubt whatsoever on this side of the chamber that Mr. Dingwall perhaps should do the honourable thing and resign, or at least step aside, could the leader tell us what she personally thinks?

Senator Fairbairn: Honourable senators, on this particular question, I am also seeking further information. At the request of the Minister of Public Works, Public Works and Government Services Canada is reviewing the tender process and the allegations that have been made about the lease. I will await to hear the results of that review.

Senator Forrestall: Honourable senators, I gather from the news reports that the minister has issued an instruction to his staff to take a look at these most recent allegations with respect to the business centre. If there happens to be terms of reference that the minister would like to see met, it would be appreciated if it were tabled as well.

My concern is the terms of reference, which I will await and read in some detail. The reference refers only to the first contract, and not the second. How are we to understand the importance of the second contract if in fact the terms of reference for Price Waterhouse do not include the subsequent contract?

Senator Fairbairn: Honourable senators, I will certainly endeavour to clarify that point. It has been made clear to me that a review has been requested in each case. However, I will clarify that as well as exactly who is doing it. I will try to find out as much information as I can for Senator Forrestall.

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT ON LEASES— REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF CONSORTIUM

Hon. Gerald J. Comeau: Honourable senators, my question is addressed to the Government Leader in the Senate. It is further to my inquiry yesterday regarding the interference by the Minister of Public Works into the contract between Canada Post Corporation's properties and leases division and the consortium of companies.

My sources had indicated Mr. Dingwall had not only instructed Canada Post to extend the contract from three to seven years, but, in addition, demanded that a fourth member be added to the consortium. Can the leader tell us if she has had the opportunity to find out from her cabinet colleague the identity of this new member?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, as requested I have contacted the minister's office regarding the questions asked yesterday. Neither his office nor officials at Canada Post are aware of any change in the existing contract for property management. The honourable senator will appreciate that we had our Question Period late last night, and, while I have put in a request for information, it may take a bit longer to receive the answers.

HIS EXCELLENCY DAVID BERGER

SCRUTINY ON VIEWS PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL AND CYPRUS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme: Honourable senators, prior to the announcement of Mr. David Berger as Ambassador to Israel, was he asked if he supports the policy concerning UN resolution 338 which demands a complete withdrawal from occupied territories? This has been the policy of Canada through many of its past governments; the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Kim Campbell, John Turner, and Brian Mulroney.