

*Oral Questions*

and which cost the taxpayers over \$80,000, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he is satisfied that the awarding of this contract to a company of which the chairman was a director in no way conflicted with the government's conflict of interest guidelines and, in particular, in no way conflicted with the Prime Minister's statement in the House on December 18, 1973 that, and I quote:

Regarding outside employment, public servants are being asked not to accept outside office or employment that could place on them demands inconsistent with their official duties or call into question their capacity to perform those duties in an objective manner.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I was apprised of this matter just as I came into the House by the excellent Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. I am not sure if he is in a position to report yet, but he told me he was following this up and might be prepared to answer tomorrow.

REASON PRELIMINARY STUDY BY MANITOBA INSTITUTE COST MORE THAN STUDY BY SIBALD

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, in the continuing absence of the Minister of Agriculture I will ask a question of the acting Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that although the controversial and thoroughly thorough—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Beatty:** I am so taken aback by the Prime Minister's pirouette that I am lost for words. In view of the fact that the controversial and thorough Sibald management audit of the Farm Credit Corporation cost the taxpayers only \$76,892 while the preliminary study by the Manitoba Institute of Management which merely defined the parameters of the Sibald study cost over \$80,000, can the acting minister tell the House why the preliminary study cost more money than the final report, and in view of the fact that the Manitoba Institute of Management tendered unsuccessfully on the management audit, does the minister not agree that putting the initial study out to tender might have saved taxpayers a considerable amount of money?

**Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise that the Minister of Agriculture is in Victoria today, and for the next three days, with the ministers of agriculture of the provinces, and the hon. member knows that.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Pelletier:** I have discussed this question with officials of the department, and I am advised that Dr. Kristjanson's actions did not involve a real conflict of interest. The Manitoba Institute of Management is a non-profit educational institute, and its selection to define the terms of reference of a management audit, although made initially by the chairman, was ratified by all members of the corporation.

[Mr. Beatty.]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF WEST GERMANY

**Mr. Speaker:** Before carrying on with the question period, I know all hon. members will want to join with me in calling attention to the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished delegation from the Federal Republic of West Germany, headed by its most distinguished chancellor, His Excellency Helmut Schmidt.

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

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## CROWN CORPORATIONS

PROPOSED AUTOMATIC REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS TO  
COMMITTEES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister, who I naturally would like to welcome back from an event where I understand that he too became a "mangeur de hot dog".

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark:** In his discussions regarding Crown corporations the Prime Minister has often talked about changing the relationship between Crown corporations and the government but not their relationship with parliament. Perhaps the Prime Minister missed the question of the House leader of the Official Opposition, who asked the Prime Minister whether it is going to be the intention of the government to require an automatic, regular reference of annual reports of Crown corporations to the appropriate standing committees of the House of Commons so that parliament, too, can be involved in the policy direction of Crown corporations. Will the Prime Minister answer that question and tell us whether his government now intends to change its policy and make regular references of annual reports of Crown corporations to appropriate standing committees of the House?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for welcoming me back from that very festive occasion.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I can assure him that I have not and have never had any contempt for those who eat hot dogs. As a matter of fact, I just ate some with my family at lunch, and I feel fine.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** How does the family feel?

**An hon. Member:** You look a little peaked.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert referred to a pirouette.

**An hon. Member:** He is still here.