

Oral Questions

matter of fact, I can assure the hon. member that to date only a few pensioners have not received their cheques regularly. If the forms are returned as soon as possible, the deliveries of supplementary cheques should proceed in the usual way.

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[English]

CULTURAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State with respect to the financial crisis being confronted by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

May I readily admit that the primary responsibility in this case rests with the government of Manitoba and the corporate donors in my province. But in view of the fact there are times when Ottawa has to speak and act for all of Canada, and in view of the importance to Canada of this orchestra being continued, will the Secretary of State consider seriously finding some way in which Ottawa can join with the government of Manitoba to keep this orchestra alive?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the importance of this orchestra and share the hon. member's concern over it. Indeed, I attended one of its performances in New York city a few weeks ago, a gala occasion which both President Carter and our Prime Minister originally had agreed to attend.

There is no program within my department which would enable me to assist in terms of offering support for the orchestra. At the federal level, the only means by which we could provide support would be through the Canada Council. I should be very happy to draw to the attention of the Canada Council the representations which the hon. member has made today and with which I very strongly sympathize.

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LOTO CANADA**LOSS INCURRED IN WITHDRAWING LOTO SELECT PROGRAM**

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). The report tabled in the House of Commons some time ago, in February, dealing with Loto Select indicated at page 11 the following:

Furthermore, in early August, Loto concluded that prudence required it to recognize a resolution to the federal provincial discussions and the possible withdrawal of Loto Canada from the \$1 loto game. Thus, as early as mid-August, Loto, where it was feasible to do so, postponed a number of decisions—

Considering that on ten occasions in the House of Commons the minister has not denied that it was a \$23 million contract, and that on the December 10 CBC program, Sunday Morning, she called it a \$23 million contract, how in that eight-week

[Miss Bégin.]

period did the contract escalate from \$23 million to \$47 million, which is the figure used in the report as the amount they were trying to do away with?

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the first figure was for one year and the full figure was for a three-year possible contract. When the hon. member brings up that there was a potential agreement with the provinces, he does not take into account that that was not a full agreement by all of the provinces involved. It took us until October 5 to resolve it finally.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, another good reason why this report should go to committee is that it seems to be misleading in indicating, on one hand, \$23 million and now \$47 million. However, the minister indicated in the House, as reported at page 1979 of *Hansard*, that the contract with General Instrument was one of lease. Yet in the report at page 6 it is noted that the contract allowed for a purchase arrangement during this period. Was the contract, in fact, one of lease, one of purchase, or was it perhaps one of purchase at the end of the lease arrangement?

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, "leased" is the correct term.

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IMMIGRATION**PROTEST AGAINST TREATMENT OF TWO CHILEAN REFUGEES**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration regarding a case which is gathering interest by leaps and bounds. It has been on his desk since 1975 at least.

An hon. Member: Boloney.

Mr. Alexander: I am referring to Federico and Ingrid Luchsinger, refugees from Chile. Apparently these two people are now before the Security Advisory Board without any opportunity of rebutting false, incomplete or wrong allegations. What is of even more concern is that I want to know how it is possible for the minister to give these people six ministerial deferments prior to the time that he found something wrong whereby the matter should be referred to the Security Advisory Board.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member fails to stress that they are here under ministerial permit; in other words, they are here because I said they could be here. We got the report on security and as ministers responsible in this area we think we have a responsibility to the Canadian public to check it out. The Security Advisory Board is one more opportunity for the facts presented in this particular case to be screened so that I can decide what weight to give to the representations made.