

*Oral Questions*

There are no additional tax funds going into it. It is all financed internally. If he wants to know where the money is coming from, in part it came from a decision by Canada Post to contract out to the tune of \$100 million a year all its internal data processing activities to another Canadian company, Systemhouse. That has generated cash so there is no cash problem.

He might be interested to know and want to applaud Canada Post for the fact that its productivity has been increasing significantly. Even during a recession it has been able to post a profit this year and there will be no increase in stamp prices effective January. Over all I think if he examines the record he will want to applaud Canada Post for an outstanding performance.

**Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent):** Madam Speaker, he is quite wrong in my comment. I said it was an evil, probably a lesser evil than an American company purchasing it. However these arguments do not wash.

During the past few years this government sold Air Canada, Petro-Canada and Telesat. When the country is so financially devastated, how can it announce a \$55 million purchase of Purolator? Why does the minister feel we need to own another parcel post delivery system?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is quite a salesman for Canada. In OECD the finance ministers are meeting and there is agreement that out of the 21 or 22 leading industrialized nations, Canada is going to lead the world in growth, job creation and prosperity for the next two years.

The hon. member insists that Canada is not the great place that they think it is; it is a terrible place where there is great deprivation. Why cannot the hon. member accept good news? This is a good business decision that makes sense for Canada Post.

When the Liberals were in charge of Canada Post they were receiving subsidies from the taxpayers to the tune of \$300 million to \$400 million a year. Does he want to go back to the good old days when the taxpayers get the chance to dip into their jeans to subsidize Canada Post, or does he want to accept the record that it is an outstanding corporation that has done an outstanding

job and this makes good business sense? Come on, join us.

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**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the government House leader.

We know that the Minister of the Environment has currently senior officials of his leadership campaign who were previously employed on untendered contracts in the Department of the Environment. They include Mr. David Small and Mr. Tim Ralfe.

Today we have the Minister of the Environment quoted as saying the following in *The Globe and Mail*, and I ask the government House leader to pay close attention to this quote: "The people working on our campaign are not on the government payroll as is the case from what I understand for those who are working on other campaigns".

I want to ask the government House leader, given that the Minister of the Environment has alleged quite clearly today in *The Globe and Mail* that other leadership campaigns are being bankrolled by the public purse, what is the government House leader doing on behalf of the taxpayers to put an end to this practice?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, first off, as I listened to the quote the Minister of the Environment said no one working full time on his campaign is on the government payroll and that is the case with other leadership campaigns as well. What is wrong with that?

Yesterday the hon. member stood in the House and he quoted, for example, from an unsigned, unsolicited document. He might have got it from the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. Who knows where he got that document from? He stated that Mr. Ralfe's contracts exceeded \$50 million in the last fiscal year and his contract was renewed in April although he seems to be working full time on the Charest campaign. That is totally false and is in fact defamatory.

If the hon. member has any respect for this institution he will apologize because the contract was not renewed. It terminated March 31. It was not for more than \$50,000. Mr. Ralfe started working on the campaign after that and is not receiving anything from the Government