

—we have to draw the line somewhere and that it has been drawn at highly organized attempts to influence a government for a purpose “particular to the organization”.

I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare, if that is the policy of the government, will the government review that policy with a view to withdrawing it, or at least issue further clarification so that churches and legitimate organizations which enjoy tax exemption as charitable organizations will know where they stand?

**Miss Bégin:** Mr. Speaker, I was not present at that committee meeting yesterday, and for the third time I would ask that I be given an opportunity to read the minister's remarks. Then perhaps I will be able to answer the question.

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### TRANSPORT

#### BARRINGTON, N.S.—SONIC BOOMS CAUSED BY JET OVERFLIGHTS

**Miss Coline Campbell (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Have the minister's officials made him aware of the fact that people in the Barrington area of Nova Scotia are still experiencing severe shockwaves or sonic booms due to Concorde flights, and that an increase in supersonic flights to John F. Kennedy airport is being contemplated? If that is the case, is the minister prepared to discuss the situation with his counterpart in the United States, with a view to alleviating the problem in South Western Nova?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the problem and, indeed, my officials have examined the problem of sonic booms. At our request, the flightways of the Concorde have been moved a number of miles farther away from the coastal area. That, however, has not stopped the problem. In addition, it appears that some of the booms may be caused by a source other than the Concorde, and we are not exactly sure what that is. We have on its way, thanks to a loan from the American authorities, some sensitive equipment which may help us track the source of the particular booms still being experienced.

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### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

#### CRITERIA USED IN CALLING FOR TENDERS

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Supply and Services: concerns the questionable tendering practices of this government. The Canadian Association of Data Processing Service Organizations has charged that more than \$2 million in government contracts was awarded to a Quebec-based computer firm, not because it submitted the lowest bid but, rather, in the words of the Minister of Supply and Services, because of “socio economic considerations.”

### Oral Questions

In view of this, I would ask the minister why arbitrary criteria such as “socio economic considerations” have replaced the bidding procedure as the determining factor in awarding government contracts for computer-related work.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member starts off with an unfounded premise. In fact, the contracts were awarded after public calls for tenders were issued, either to the firm in question or to other firms across Canada. As for the contract mentioned in the Ottawa *Citizen* article, I want to reassure the hon. member that in this case three companies submitted the same bid, that they were all highly qualified to carry out the contract, and that in the end it was decided to award the contract to IST, a Quebec firm.

It is normal that we should try to even out government purchases in the country. I have sometimes tried to favour the western provinces, sometimes the maritimes, and in this particular case I favoured a Quebec firm. One must recall that in 1977-78, 78 per cent of the electronic data processing contracts were awarded to Ontario companies. I think it is fair and just that we should try to give other companies a reasonable share of the market when they are qualified, and that is what happened.

[English]

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that computer firms spend between \$20,000 and \$60,000 on their bids on government tenders, and in view of the fact that “socio economic considerations”, which is apparently a new terminology for “patronage”, seem to have compelled the minister to grant the contracts to the Quebec firm despite lower bids from other firms, will the minister be kind enough to advise the non-Quebec firms to refrain from bidding, thus saving them a lot of money, since they stand no chance of being successful in their bids?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

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### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### DISTRIBUTION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FEEDING BOTTLES

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I ask the minister whether he is aware that a gift pack which is given out by most hospitals to new mothers when they leave hospital contains a glass bottle which the three companies that produce the bottle say is potentially dangerous because it is made of regular glass and tends to fragment when heated or sterilized or has warm formula put in it, thus being dangerous in that the infant might be consuming glass on drinking the formula or milk? Is the minister aware of that and, if so, what is he going to do about it?