

Oral Questions

● (1415)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure all Members would be pleased to allow the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) to continue his statement.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Second, Mr. Speaker, the UPA said that it disagreed with Bill C-25, which will result in a loss of millions of dollars for Quebec farmers.

I hope all Conservative Members in this House will finally wake up and protect Quebec farmers, something they are not doing at the present time.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in our gallery of Mr. Yitzhak Navon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Culture for the State of Israel.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

CONSTRUCTION OF PORT-CARTIER PRISON—REQUEST FOR
EXPLANATION OF CHOICE OF CONSULTANT ENGINEERS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister or, in his absence, to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the political patronage involved in awarding contracts for the prison at Port-Cartier.

Today it was reported in the press that one of the architects for the consortium that was awarded the contract said he was told to utilize the services of consulting engineers Desseau, Dupont and Desmeules from Montreal. Could the Prime Minister inform the House why his Government made the architects hire this firm? Could it be because the firm contributed several thousand dollars to the Conservative Party's coffers, or is it just a coincidence?

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we have had a number of inquiries from Members opposite in the last number of days concerning this particular

issue. I reaffirm the information I gave last week, that is, all contracts awarded with respect to the prison were awarded according to Treasury Board guidelines. My learned friend is well aware of that fact.

REPORTED DONATIONS TO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, we have made a number of inquiries but we have had very few answers from the Government.

According to the same architect, local companies have no choice but to attend Tory fundraising events and make generous donations to the Conservative Party if they hope to get any government work. Why is this practice allowed to happen? When will the Government put a stop to this kind of nonsense and this abuse of taxpayers' money?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I thought the Hon. Member would bring to the attention of the House the fact that he received a copy of the Auditor General's letter dated October 27 which was the basis of much of the criticism that he raised last week. In this letter concerning sole sourcing it was admitted by the Auditor General that he had made a mistake in his report. I thought the Hon. Member would have brought that message to the attention of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP—PMO
REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Minister should be careful. The Auditor General never said that, and he knows it. He will have to rectify his answer later.

Is this pork-barreling to Tory friends not the real reason why Mr. Simon Landry of the Prime Minister's Office sits on the board concerning the construction of Port-Cartier, or is that another coincidence?

Mr. Nunziata: It's corruption.

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, my learned friend indicates that I made an error concerning the letter from the Auditor General. The letter states: "There is the possibility of a mistake in the statement regarding sole source contracts". I can say that the Auditor General has gone on to confirm that that is the case.

*[Translation]*OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIME MINISTER TO APPEAR BEFORE
COMMITTEE EXAMINING PORT-CARTIER PROJECT

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I must admit the Government is not being particularly forthcoming in providing information on Port-Cartier, but there are other Members in this House who are. I would like to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister, in the absence of his boss, and ask him the following: Since a committee of the