

bidder, is the lowest bid now the criteria upon which these contracts are let?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, according to Government policy, when there is a public call for tenders, the Government always applies the criterion of the lowest bidder. This was done in the case of the six class 1100 ice-breakers. I would qualify my answer only to say that two of the six ice-breakers were to go to shipyards on Canada's West Coast and four to the shipyards in the East. The Port Weller dry-docks bid on the four ice-breakers designated for the East coast, and unfortunately, the bid made by the Port-Weller dry-docks was higher than the bids of the other shipyards who were awarded the contracts for the four ships.

[English]

SUBSIDY TO MARINE INDUSTRIES IN SOREL, P.Q.

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister, and I trust that he will respond this time. If the lowest bid is the criterion upon which these contracts will be let, does the Minister take into consideration what was announced last week in the awarding of those contracts? By that I mean the grants to the yards themselves, like the federal grant of \$2,189,000 that went to Marine Industries which received a contract for two icebreakers. When letting contracts, does the Minister take that \$2 million into consideration?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member mentioned \$2 million for Marine Industries Limited in Sorel and there was also an announcement that \$1.2 million would go to Davie Shipbuilding Limited and more than one million dollars to Saint John Shipbuilding Dry Dock Co., Ltd., in New Brunswick. These subsidies were granted under the Shipbuilding Industry Assistance Program and represent 3 per cent of the cost of work and renovation already carried out. This amount was not considered when awarding the contracts for the six 1100 icebreakers. The amounts were a 3 per cent subsidies for previous work on ships or for shipyard renovation.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INVASION OF GRENADA—SUGGESTED PARLIAMENTARY FACT FINDING MISSION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns last week's invasion of Grenada. Last week the President of the United States, in attempting to justify the invasion, said that the

decision had been made on Sunday, after being requested to invade by a group of east Caribbean states.

It appears from information that was provided over the weekend in Washington that in fact the decision to invade was made by the President of the United States and Mr. Shultz on Saturday and that, after that decision was reached, the United States drafted the wording of a request for invasion which was sent to the Commonwealth countries, and an appeal was made to the Commonwealth countries to use that wording when demanding U.S. intervention.

Considering that the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister were saying last week that we do not have enough information on this deplorable series of events in Grenada, will the Government now agree to send a fact finding group of Members of Parliament, composed of representatives from each Party, to the area in order to report back? Unlike the Conservative Party, we take a position on this important issue.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot add anything to what I said at the end of last week when last commenting upon this matter, which was that we are attempting to determine the sequence of events and the facts. At this stage I do not see the advantage of naming a fact finding committee of this Parliament to make that investigation. We will try to find the answers in order to satisfy ourselves.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that the events are not only profoundly important in terms of the impact in this region of the world but have very serious implications well beyond this hemisphere.

SUGGESTED COMPOSITION OF MISSION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister why, in the light of statements that he made last week, and in light of the statements made by the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, he would not agree to send a small delegation, composed of one Member of Parliament from each Party, and their staff, to visit the region and report back to the House and the people of Canada.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer is that the Government is trying to ascertain the facts for itself. When we know the facts we will be able to clarify some of these matters in response to questions from the Opposition. There is no interdiction on any Member of the House to go there and attempt to find the facts as well. However, for the Government to authorize Members of the three Parties to go there and find facts does not seem to me to be the right thing to do.

● (1430)

We are in possession of telexes. We know what our ambassadors think. We are trying to reconcile dates and conflicting views.