

consultant to prepare a report on sports pools that the Auditor General has said was outside its mandate. That consultant, Mr. Ian Howard, by mere coincidence, was a former aide to Iona Campagnola, the President of the Liberal Party of Canada. Mr. Howard collected the tidy sum of \$75,000 for his services. With nothing else to do, Loto Canada has become a make-work project for unemployed Liberals.

Loto Canada should have been eliminated five years ago when its lottery operations ended. But it is typical of the Liberals to keep something around long after its usefulness has run out. After all, Canadians are still burdened with this Government, aren't they?

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

DEVELOPMENT OF SHERBROOKE AND MAGOG REGIONS OF QUEBEC

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Sherbrooke.

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, in October 1981, the Prime Minister announced a special program to help the textile, clothing and footwear industries, under which \$265 million would be spent on modernizing these sectors, while later on, seven special zones were designated where the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board would focus its efforts. This has certainly been the most effective Government program we have ever had, and the one best adapted to the economic situation in the Magog-Sherbrooke area. Not long ago, most business and financial groups and Sherbrooke and Magog authorities expressed their satisfaction with the obvious success of this program.

Together with my colleagues from the Eastern Townships, we urge the Canadian Government to consider as soon as possible a request submitted by the City of Sherbrooke and the City of Magog to have this outstanding program, which has helped our region to make remarkable progress in a period of economic difficulty, extended for at least two years.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Cabinet will consider this request favourably, in order to pursue the economic recovery of an area that has been severely affected by unemployment during the past few years.

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[English]

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

DEMAND FOR INQUIRY INTO REPORTED CONSTRUCTION FLAWS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, on October 17, 1983, I called on the Minister of Public Works (Mr. LeBlanc) to launch an independent inquiry into responsibility for more than \$300,000 of damage to the National Arts

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Centre presumed to be caused by leaking sidewalks. We in the House were informed that snow clearing machinery, salt, and increased traffic were to blame for the damage to the sidewalks around the Centre, causing the deterioration of the expansion joint in the roof of the NAC garage. Yesterday, however, it was brought to my attention that in a memo to Public Works official T. Heinmaa, the Minister of Public Works actually misled the House, and the structural problems are really due to faulty, slipshod original construction. The memo states:

The original working drawings of the NAC often do not reflect the true state of existing conditions . . . and the intolerable situation has been talked about but never tackled for the last seven years.

The Minister has obviously misled the House and I must again ask that he launch an independent inquiry into this situation immediately to determine where the responsibility lies for the inferior original construction of the NAC. Furthermore, I have been informed that the \$300,000 repair work contract was never tendered but merely given to a contractor. I am sure this House would be most interested in hearing the Minister's explanation for this one as well.

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● (1410)

THE JUDICIARY

SELECTION OF NOMINEES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, concern has often been expressed about the present system of appointing judges in Canada. In a recent address Mr. Robert McKercher, President of the Canadian Bar Association, suggested a few ways in which to improve the present system of evaluating candidates for judicial appointments, and I would like to mention them to the House.

Mr. McKercher's first suggestion was that provincial bar committees could be established in all provinces where equivalent committees do not exist, to review all nominations for appointments to the available positions on provincial court benches in Canada. Second, provincial Attorneys General and the federal Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) should take action to formalize this expanded review procedure and to guarantee that, in all instances, only the best of the nominees are appointed. Third, consideration should be given to finding nominees for judicial office outside the political process. Fourth, some system of scrutinizing appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada should be implemented.

While I agree with the intent of Mr. McKercher's remarks, it seems to me that the selection of judges is too important to be left solely to the legal profession, which would have its own indigenous forms of patronage. For this reason I feel that in principle a continued, though more circumscribed degree of political input is essential to represent the voice of the people.