

Inquiries of the Ministry

ium Ltd. formula for the production of heavy water has not yet been definitely established, would the minister assure the house that the second lowest bidder will establish the plant at Estevan should the original bidder not establish a successful formula?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, the choice of a site for the plant, under the terms of the Gulf proposals, is a choice to be made by the bidder, and it would be improper and indeed unwise of me to give any assurance as to what any particular bidder will or might do.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL**OTTAWA—TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Churchill asked a question concerning the construction of the performing arts centre, and more particularly as to whether the department would follow the normal practice in calling for tenders. At that time I answered that because of the complexity of the performing arts centre, and because of the deadline, the Department of Public Works had met with members of the Canadian Construction Association in order to determine what would be the best way to have this building ready for 1967.

As a result of this meeting a selection committee was appointed, composed of representatives of the construction industry and the Department of Public Works. This committee has selected the names of a number of representative general contractors from across Canada who are being invited today to indicate their interest in the project and to answer a questionnaire. From the response the committee will select five tenderers and invite them to submit bids on a cost plus fixed fee basis, with an upset price. It is intended that these bids be received by March 31, 1965.

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Public Works. Would he say how many firms are being asked to tender on this project, and will he table the names of the firms which have been asked to participate?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Speaker, these invitations have gone out to maybe 20 firms across Canada. There is no objection to tabling the list of firms which have been asked to tender.

[Mr. Southam.]

PENSIONS**PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRIBUTORY PROGRAM**

The house resumed, from Thursday, March 4, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-136, to establish a comprehensive program of old age pensions and supplementary benefits in Canada payable to and in respect of contributors—Miss LaMarsh—Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

The Chairman: When the committee rose yesterday, clause 115 of the bill was being considered. Shall clause 115 carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Knowles: On division.

On clause 115—*"Included province" defined.*
[Translation]

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Chairman, a perusal of clause 115 shows that there is only one provision to protect the provinces against too much interference or too much control by the federal government.

Now, I readily understand that some may wish to have that amount reduced, for the simple reason that it would entail less difficulties, create fewer headaches, without the provinces raising any objection, whenever there would be a change in rates or whenever the federal government decided, regarding its pension plan, to amend clause 115 in order to raise the rates of contributions, for instance. But as objection has been raised against this clause—and I do not want to complain for the sake of complaining—I think we must maintain at all cost the proportion established in this clause in order that the provinces may at least enjoy some protection and some assurance that the government would not change the rates and raise contributions at its discretion, simply because it wants to, and without consulting the provinces or obtaining their assent.

Quebec and Ontario account for two thirds of the total population of the country, and that is why another clause has been added providing for a proportion of one third. Now, under the present circumstances, Quebec intends to set up its own pension plan while the other provinces will join the Canada pension plan.

As the minister stated last night that the Quebec pension plan would be similar to that of the federal government, not only as to pensions paid but also as to rates of contributions, and that the proportion must more