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of price. All three firms were judged technically capable of performing the work. Since a clear winner could not be decided on the basis of estimated costs alone, there was a necessity to use other criteria, and the ability to assist in the realization of national objectives by compensating for the imbalance in the distribution of government business between the various regions of Canada was considered.

The final decision to award this contract was, of course, made in the usual way under the authority of the Treasury Board. The award of this contract was made within the over-all objectives of the department and in conformity with government contracting regulations.

In the case of the contract awarded to IST for the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, it was awarded on April 1, 1976 for a three-year period as a result of a competitive tender, and IST was the lowest responsive bidder by a distinct margin.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 10.20 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.