

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ISSUANCE OF CONTRACT TO RICHMOND INDIVIDUAL

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Science and Technology. *The Bulletin of Business Opportunities* of September 12 revealed that the Department of Science and Technology entered into a contract with a certain J. P. White of Richmond in the amount of \$176,500. The contract has since been cancelled and the individual has been hired by the Minister on his exempt staff. Would the Minister tell the House if public tenders were called when the contract was originally awarded? And why was the contract subsequently cancelled?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the ultimate question would be more appropriately placed with the Minister who is responsible for contracting, that is, the Minister of Supply and Services. However, it is my understanding that the contract was entered into by the Deputy in my Ministry. It has now been terminated and, as the Hon. Member correctly states, Mr. White has been employed on my personal staff.

**Mr. Berger:** Mr. Speaker, what we obviously have is a case of political patronage.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Question.

**Mr. Berger:** And the Minister backtracked when he feared the consequences.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Question.

**Mr. Berger:** The Government always seems able to justify spending more money—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Berger:** —on public relations.

### FUNDING OF SCIENCE COUNCIL OF CANADA

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Rather than spend this money on public relations, will he agree to give the exact amount of \$176,500 to the Science Council of Canada so that it can, among other things, rehire two librarians whom it had to lay off when the Minister cut its budget in half?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the Science Council of Canada is doing some outstanding work for this Government—

**Mr. Gauthier:** We know that.

**Mr. Orlikow:** No thanks to you.

**Mr. Siddon:** —in response to specific questions which have been addressed to it in recent months, and in fact no such

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amount of money is to be expended in any event. So the Hon. Member obviously does not have a legitimate grievance.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

### REDUCTION IN STAFFING

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Is the Minister aware of a departmental memo in her Department which indicates that 325 person years are to be cut from the staff of Canada Employment and Immigration across Canada? And can she explain how the pledge of the Minister of Finance of minimum disruption to the public will be achieved when there are 325 fewer CEIC employees to provide service to unemployed Canadians?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the service to unemployed Canadians by the staff of CEIC continues to be at the very high level. I can assure the Hon. Member that that will continue to be so. Any reduction in the staff will largely be taken care of through attrition and through recycling within the Department, and I can assure the Hon. Member that he and those persons employed in the Department do not have a great deal of cause for concern.

### PROVISION OF SERVICES

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not aware that for the last several years Hon. Members of this Party have had complaints from CEIC employees about the pressure put upon them, and complaints from the unemployed about receiving service from Canada Employment Centres? How can the necessary improvements in those centres be achieved when the Ministry is cutting 325 jobs because of Wilson's cut-backs?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the staff of the CEIC is indeed concerned about the services which it offers to those who are unemployed. That is why they make such a very real effort—one which every one in this House should recognize—in order to provide those services.

Yes, the operations in the Department are being streamlined, but as I said, this is being done in such a way as to cause the least possible dislocation and disruption in services.