

Order Paper Questions

ed the purchase of print and electronic media. These services were provided during the month of December, 1980, under an interim contractual arrangement. The service provided during the month of January, 1981, was under a contractual arrangement in effect from January 1, 1981 to March 31, 1983.

3. The contract for the period of January 1, 1981, to March 31, 1983, was issued on a price-to-be-negotiated basis. Prices are to be negotiated prior to July 31, 1981, to establish a firm fee. DSS is unable to determine the final amount to be paid to the contractor until the negotiations have been completed and will not therefore know whether or not payments will exceed \$2,430,000 until the contractor's fees have been firmed up.

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[English]

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, if question No. 1,461 could be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 1,461 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

AMERICAN MOTORS

Question No. 1,461—**Mr. Deans:**

1. From 1965 to June, 1980, how many orders in council were issued affecting American Motors and its subsidiaries operating in Canada and what was the actual wording of each order in council?

2. What amount of customs duty was remitted for each order submitted concerning American Motors and its subsidiaries?

3. What were the commitments from American Motors and its subsidiaries in exchange for remitting each customs duty?

4. Did American Motors and its subsidiaries meet each commitment?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: Stand.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION**RESOLUTION RESPECTING CONSTITUTION ACT, 1981**

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. Chrétien, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

And on the amendment of Mr. Epp, seconded by Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton)—That the motion be amended in Schedule B of the proposed resolution by deleting Clause 46, and by making all necessary changes to the Schedule consequential thereto.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, I rise to participate in this historic debate which will have an effect, for better or worse, on the people of Canada for all future time.

The focus of this debate is on the proposed resolution for a Joint Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada as amended by the parliamentary committee, but in truth the proposal must be seen and understood within the broader Canadian reality. It is within this broader reality that I wish to direct my initial remarks. If time then permits, I intend to deal with certain specific clauses which, in themselves, are rather disturbing.

The broader Canadian reality is the product of Canada's huge size geographically, our cultural differences, our different historical time-frames and our different mental attitudes. In short, what is this Canada that we all love and care for, each in our own way?

Never in all recorded time has such a huge geographical area remained as one country for as long as Canada has already lasted. We read about the greatness of China, Egypt and the Roman Empire, but in fact none ever covered such a large area nor developed the stable form of government and society which we have here in Canada. We are one of a kind. All others survived for their limited life spans only with a great deal of civil violence, oppression and wars. Even our great neighbours to the south endured a civil war and killed over 600,000 of themselves. That civil war occurred a mere 120 years ago. Other empires sanctioned slavery and oppression to hold themselves together.

The unique contribution of Canada and Canadians to world political evolution is our way of resolving deep conflicts of interest by political compromise rather than unilateral, political or military action. The process of political compromise started with the Royal Proclamation of 1763, continued through the Quebec Act of 1774, the Constitution Act of 1791 and, finally, the British North America Act of 1867. Each of the above statutes marked a major point of departure from prior constitutional practice and reflected a political compromise which kept the whole together and defused the political dissatisfaction of the time.