

Oral Questions

Did the minister ask the RCMP to make an investigation on Mr. Justice Antonio Lamer as is usually done before making an important appointment, and is the minister aware of the deep friendship that existed between Mr. Justice Lamer and tavern keeper Jean-Jacques Côté who publicly testified before the commission on organized crime and against whom criminal action has been taken?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with those allegations but no investigation was made, to my knowledge, by the RCMP.

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AIRPORTS

SKY SHOPS AT MIRABEL—REASON SKY SHOPS GIVEN POINTS FOR ADVERTISING WHILE OTHER TENDERERS RECEIVED NO POINTS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which is supplementary to that posed by the hon. member for Central Nova. It relates to the recent developments concerning the awarding of government contracts and arises particularly from the summary of tendering procedures for the Mirabel duty free shop which the minister outlined in this House some time ago. Can the minister explain why in his department's attempt to justify the awarding of the duty free concession to Sky Shops, not one of the eight bidders other than Sky Shops were given any points in the evaluation criteria for advertising, while Sky Shops received the maximum, a total of five points in this category? How can the minister reconcile this evaluation in the face of the charges now outstanding relating to false and misleading advertising against Sky Shops?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in addition to the fact that that matter is before the courts, it is unfortunate to try to link the question of the advertising contained in the bid and the advertising referred to in the last part of the question. The actual analysis of bids is an extremely complex matter. It could be better dealt with this afternoon when the estimates of the Department of Transport are before the committee, rather than trying to deal with it this way in the House without the material before us.

Mr. Mazankowski: In as much as this is the only evaluation criteria, which is specifically advertising, out of a total of 13 other specific items where every single tenderer received some points, Sky Shops drew the maximum number of five while other bidders did not receive any points for advertising, does the minister not consider this somewhat strange? Does he not consider that there is just a wee bit of suspicion with regard to the evaluation of this total contract? Will the minister now come clean and tell the House why Sky Shops did get the contract?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the examination and the question of the bids was in the hands of an evaluation committee. The minister has come clean by putting the evaluation summary and process before the House in answer to earlier questions. It is there. If certain of the bidders did not put

in any information at all about a certain program or proposal as part of their bid, they may not get any points for that. However, that is a matter that really depends on looking back at the bidding process at the time. The material is all available to the hon. member. He should not accuse anyone of not coming clean.

SKY SHOPS AT MIRABEL—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF ADVERTISING PROGRAM

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's answer, is he prepared to table this super-duper advertising program which Sky Shops produced to the Ministry of Transport in as much as 99 per cent of the purchases in the duty free concession shops are impulse buying and there is not a heck of a lot of advertising that has to be done? Will the minister table that super-duper contract?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be glad to look at that. Members who have been watching what has been tabled probably are not able to keep up with all the material. They know that I am co-operative and I will see what I can do about this.

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FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING SPENDING INCREASE TO TEN PER CENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In working out his budget which he will be presenting in May, is the minister planning to limit the increase in government spending during the next fiscal year to the range of 10½ per cent which was achieved by the Ontario government in its budget which was presented just two days ago and by so doing save the Canadian taxpayers around \$2 billion in the next fiscal year?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, any changes in the budgetary system, either with regard to revenue or expenditure, are most intelligently left until the budget statement itself.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Knowing the Prime Minister's desire to see the universe unfold as it should, would he care to comment on Dr. Gallup's indication of how the universe is going to unfold during the next two years?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to think this one over.