

Oral Questions

DELIVERY OF SERVICES

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Prime Minister's difficulty in dealing with the question when the Minister is not here. However, the Auditor General states specifically in the Report that there is an absence of a national strategy to determine whether the Ministry is delivering its services to the clients who need them most.

I suggest to the Prime Minister that the absence of a national strategy to deliver services to the clients, whether they be employers or employees, may very well be at the root of our job-creation problems today. What action is his Government taking to establish that national strategy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member will refer to my previous question, he has the assurance that I will notify the Minister of the Hon. Member's concerns and the concerns of the Auditor General.

MONITORING OF GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, I have a further supplementary question, and I would refer to the same section once again. In that section the Auditor General raises a concern that the programs that have taken place, such as Summer Canada Projects, the NEED Program and the LEAP Program, do not have in place the proper method of evaluating what actually took place.

I ask the Prime Minister what action the Government is taking to monitor the programs that have taken place, such as the Canada Works Program about which we have some very real concerns now that the Government is funding private enterprise. What action is the Government taking to evaluate and monitor the programs it is putting in place?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I really regret that the Hon. Member had these three questions written out. He feels that he has to go through them all. I answered in the first question that I had not read the Report, therefore I do not have the answers. I told him that.

An Hon. Member: You're tired.

Mr. Crosbie: You are the leader of the Government. What is wrong with you?

Mr. Trudeau: Now we have some nervous nellyes on the other side.

Mr. Crosbie: You've got some reading to do. You are going around the world.

Mr. Trudeau: Now the Hon. Member for St. John's West wants to get into the act. What does he have to say? I don't know, but it is probably nonsense as usual.

Mr. Crosbie: Can I take your spot for a while?

TREASURY BOARD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Madam Speaker, I can understand why the President of the Treasury Board is not with us because the Auditor General's Report, tabled by you today, is an indictment of the Treasury Board for not really functioning as it should as a central agency.

In view of the fact that the Right Hon. Prime Minister has not read the Report, perhaps I can direct my question to the Acting President of the Treasury Board. Previous matters reported in previous auditor generals' reports have indicated such things as prior payments in advance of needs to Crown corporations such as CN Marine, Devco, \$20 million to Ridley Island out in B.C., and VIA Rail. Why does the Government accept a letter of guarantee from Dome to cover the fact that its subsidiary, Davie Shipyards, cannot qualify for a surety bond on a \$70 million contract? Talk about smoke and mirrors.

Has Treasury Board lost all ability to control the system? Why cannot these management aberrations be brought under control? Are political priorities interfering with decent, productive management practices in the system?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Acting Minister is attending business consultations in Halifax.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: It distresses some Members opposite. I do not have notice that the President of the Treasury Board will be away today, so perhaps the Hon. Member could save the question for later. The Acting Minister is not here.

Mr. Huntington: I welcome the opportunity to address a question to the Prime Minister.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S CRITICISMS

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Madam Speaker, after five years of work by the Auditor General, five years of hard work by the Public Accounts Committee, and five years of dedicated work by the Comptroller General of Canada, there has been IMPAC. We have seen the President of the Treasury Board announcing principles of management for the federal civil service. We have had the Glassco Report, the Lambert Report, and the D'Avignon Report. Now we have the Auditor General's 1983 report which says there is a lack of a sense of urgency within government and the system, that there are really no votes in good management, and that the system continues to run out of control. Why does this situation exist? Will the Prime Minister not take the matter in hand, implement report No. 7 of the Special Committee on Standing Orders and Procedure and see if the House, if Parliament itself, cannot come back to a position of relativity with the Canadian people and do something to change the attitudes and bring the total system under control?