Oral Questions

## **ORAL QUESTIONS**

[English]

## CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION

ISSUANCE OF ADVERTISING CONTRACTS

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for whichever Minister is speaking for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport in the House today.

[Translation]

Today, the newspaper La Presse reported that the Canada Sports Pool Corporation gave advertising contracts to two agencies with very close links to the Liberal Party. MacLaren Advertising in Toronto was awarded the English contract and Planicom PNMD in Montreal or, more specifically, Mr. Jean Prévost, Vice-President of the Liberal Party, was awarded the French contract.

Mr. Speaker, lest we forget, Mr. Prévost is an old friend of the Minister of Finance and is also in charge of campaign advertising for John Turner, who said he was against the sports pool.

Are we supposed to believe this is another coincidence? Is the Government finally going to admit that the Canada Sports Pool Corporation is a hot bed of patronage?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I should be glad to take the Hon. Member's questions as notice and submit them to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. However, Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can accept the Hon. Member's suggestion that we are not hiring competent people. Of course, it is competence that attracts orders in the private sector, and in the circumstances, I do not think politics has anything to do with it.

[English]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TABLE LIST OF APPOINTMENTS

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister who just replied, or for the Prime Minister if he cares to get involved in this important matter. The Government keeps defending its appointments on the basis of competency. May I ask the Government therefore whether it is aware that Mr. John Serres, who has been appointed regional general manager for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, was fired by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation for reasons of incompetency—the same gentleman the federal Government has now hired?

I also ask the Government to answer the question we asked yesterday. Will the Government table the entire list of everybody who has been employed to date by the Corporation so that we can see just how deeply this patronage goes.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, again I will be happy to draw my hon. friend's

in the path of the Canadian beef industry. For example, the manner in which Revenue Canada officials seek to employ the GATT Agreement is retarding expeditious action. Provisions under the Agreement require the beef industry to prove that an export subsidy exists, and they must establish that there is injury to the industry. But the Government is not willing to help collect data on which to base a claim for countervailing duty. The Government is making this industry jump through unreasonable hoops to prove their case, when it is so evident that there is damage being done.

Why does the Government not introduce the appropriate countervailing duty immediately? If we were the Government we would not be dallying and twiddling our thumbs. We would be doing something about our once thriving beef industry in order that it can compete with the European Community.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THREATENED CLOSURE OF SASKATOON OFFICE

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatoon are very much afraid that the National Film Board office which has been there for the last 25 years or more is in danger of being closed this fall. The National Film Board has given excellent service to the city of Saskatoon as well as to all parts of northern Saskatchewan that are served from that city, including about 500,000 people. This office also serves the University of Saskatchewan, the school boards and senior citizens. A particular program has now been introduced by the National Film Board to help new Canadians become assimilated, to learn the language, and to find out about the country of Canada. It has had excellent success.

• (1115)

About a year ago the same fear arose that the office would close. At that time thousands of Saskatoon citizens by petitions, by letters, and by whatever means a citizen can use, appealed to the Minister to continue the centre. Fortunately the request was accepted and the office was given a one-year extension, but again the same fear is present. Therefore I am asking, in the name of the people of our region of Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan, that the Minister seriously look at this again and that any extension not be limited but that there be a permanent commitment to have a National Film Board library in Saskatoon.