

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## SUPPLY AND SERVICES

## CONTRACT AWARDING PROCESS—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. There were reports today that eminent Conservatives, including Mr. Nantel, Mr. Bazin, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Byron, Mr. Meighen, Mr. Roberge and Mr. Pélouin operated a Committee responsible for selecting companies friendly to the Conservatives for government contracts. Two members of that Committee are on the payroll of the Department of Supply and Services, namely Mr. Pélouin and Mr. Byron, and at least two of those people have received contracts from that Department.

How does the Minister explain that patronage fiasco, and what is she going to do about it?

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, the awarding process I have just referred to is an honest process. Any Department that has a need for a promotion campaign opens its contest. A selection jury composed of public servants has been put in place, and Mr. Pélouin is not a member.

[English]

## REQUEST THAT ADVERTISING MANAGEMENT GROUP BE DISBANDED

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. We have Place Vincent Massey under investigation at the moment; we have the Member for Edmonton—Strathcona unhappy with the patronage system in the Progressive Conservative Party.

This Party promised to change from the way the Liberals handed out patronage—

**Mr. Riis:** They didn't; they are worse!

**Mr. Rodriguez:** My question for the Minister is this. Is she prepared to disband this advertising management group, which is made up of a bunch of Tory hacks? Is she prepared to disband this and establish a patronage-free public tendering process for government contracts?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I have here a directive from the Treasury Board on Government's activities. This Government's activities are honest activities. The advertising management group has reduced Government expenditures, in the spirit exactly under which we work as a Government, which is to reduce Government expenditures and increase our efficiency.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ESTABLISHMENT OF SPACE AGENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources as well as the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion questioned yesterday the future of the Canadian Space Agency. However, the Minister of State for Science and Technology maintains that he will go forward with the establishment of the Space Agency. My question to the Minister is this: Can he put an end to that confusion? Who says the truth, he or the Ministers who are questioning the future of the Space Agency? Can he tell us today whether or not there will be a Canadian Space Agency?

[English]

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Prime Minister gave me instructions, in accordance with the commitment the Government made in the Throne Speech, to assemble the various assets that Canada has in space and to organize them under a new space agency.

As is the case with all commitments in the Throne Speech, such an agency will be established.

**An Hon. Member:** Another broken promise.

[Translation]

## REASON FOR DELAY

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister: When will the Government table the Bill setting up that Agency? Why that lack of leadership? Why is the Government dragging its feet with regard to that matter? Why is it not announcing immediately the location of the Agency, the criteria to be applied for its choice and the setting up of the Agency?

[English]

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the notion of developing and organizing a Canadian space agency has been around for 20 years. If there was any lack of leadership in that regard, it is sitting right over there in the opposition benches.

The answer to the Hon. Member's question is: very soon.

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## AIR CANADA

## POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATIZATION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Privatization. As you and she will know, Mr. Speaker, Air Canada is having a fiftieth birthday celebration this Friday morning at the Congress Centre—50 years of magnificent accomplishment by the