

of firms submitted by the selection process, it seemed to be normal that the government would make the decision rather than some government officials or some outside representatives.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REASONS FOR SELECTION PROCESS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister has made a strong argument for doing away with the public tender system entirely so that the few favourites of the government can have all the jobs that are going across Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Why did the government have four civil servants, two architects and one retired diplomat circulate the architectural profession in Canada, then have 11 semi-finalists selected who had to spend tens of thousands of dollars each in order to go to Washington and make submissions, and then have the panel recommend four firms? Those four did not include the Prime Minister's favourite. Why did they then ignore all that and go through the process so that the geniuses in the cabinet were going to decide on their own who was best suited to do the planning?

The last time I heard something like this was when the Roman Emperor Caligula made his horse a god. Is that the principle that the Prime Minister of Canada is proceeding on—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: —that he knows better than anyone else who should be the architect?

Madam Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Nielsen: Come on, Caligula.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member is a little bit mistaken in his Roman history. I could tell him that if I had the power of Caligula I would not even have to turn him into a monkey. I think he is one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Convince the architects of that. Only Trudeau pets need apply. The great sun god, the sun king will decide.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member has his facts all wrong. In the earlier part of his question he said that there were several hundred applicants and that 11 were chosen from that—

Mr. Crosbie: Semi-finalists.

Mr. Trudeau: —from that several hundred number.

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: Four were recommended.

Mr. Trudeau: All those 11 were involved in the spending process that the hon. member refers to, with trips to Washington and so on.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): So it is even more unfair than we thought it was.

Mr. Trudeau: It was certain that only one would be chosen.

Mr. Crosbie: Four were recommended.

Mr. Trudeau: Therefore it is certain that ten of them were taking the chance that their spending would not result in a contract to them.

The question is, once that elimination had been made we came down to a small group of 11—

Mr. Crosbie: Four.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Get your facts right, Prime Minister.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member has used the figure of 11 himself. Does he object to me using that figure now?

Mr. Crosbie: I want you to be truthful. Four were recommended, not 11.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order!

Mr. Crosbie: Four were recommended and you could not—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order!

Mr. Crosbie: Just try to be truthful.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

LAY-OFFS IMPLEMENTED BY CROWS NEST FOREST PRODUCTS LIMITED, OF FERNIE, B.C.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the minister who is responsible for FIRA. On November 23, 1978, the Foreign Investment Review Agency announced that Shell Canada Resources was given permission to take over Crows Nest Forest Products Limited of Fernie. At that time, FIRA gave assurances that Shell would maintain Crows Nest Forest Products Limited at not less than its 1978 level. Recently the foreign owner has violated that statement and laid off an entire shift of 200 workers. What steps is the government prepared to take to ensure that Shell lives up to the commitments given both by the company and the government to protect levels of employment?