

scheduled to be held in Etobicoke this summer, thereby jeopardizing the dreams and hopes of some 2,000 kids in wheelchairs from around the world?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the explanation is quite simple: there is no reason whatsoever to jeopardize the hopes of all those taking part in the physically disabled Olympiad, except for the South African team. The government's policy has been very clearly established for many years regarding the apartheid policy in South Africa, and the government's position has been to withhold its financial aid to sporting events involving South Africa, because of its apartheid policy. I personally wrote to the president of the Olympiad asking him to assure me that South Africa will not be represented, and if such is the case, there will be no problem. Funds will be made available for the Olympiad, and I am sure it will be very successful.

[English]

REASON FOR ALLEGED DOUBLE STANDARD IN DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): A supplementary to the Prime Minister. With the minister's answer in mind and bearing in mind, also, the fact that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce maintains at least two trade offices in South Africa, which makes it quite clear that the government of Canada does, indeed, recognize that state, at least as a trading partner, would the Prime Minister explain the obvious double standard the government is once again following, especially as South Africa has taken all necessary steps to eliminate any racial discrimination which might have existed in the past?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: He means in sports.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am afraid the hon. member is not well informed about the policy of South Africa.

Mr. Jelinek: A final supplementary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Might I remind him that in past years the Canadian government did, in fact, fund Canadian teams for the purpose of competing against teams from South Africa. In view of this situation, can the minister explain the reason for the inconsistent attitude adopted by his department?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would appreciate the hon. member giving me a particular instance and I will investigate it. The only answer I can give the House is that if it has ever occurred it was against the policy of the government and was without my knowledge. As far as instances brought to my knowledge are concerned, the officials have followed the guidelines established by the government. The federal government is not subsidizing sports events in which South Africa participates.

• (1430)

Oral Questions

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

CONTRACT WITH COMPUTING DEVICES FOR SAMSON PROJECT—DATE FOR DELIVERY OF TERMINALS—POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT

Mr. Pau Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. On March 25, as reported at page 12136 of *Hansard*, I inquired whether or not the Samson program office associated with his department had at any time indicated to Computing Devices that they did not need the terminals until September 1976, to which the minister replied on April 8 in a handwritten letter "No". I should like to inquire of the Minister of Supply and Services whether or not he knew that on Friday, January 30, 1976 a meeting took place between Computing Devices and officials of his department at which the officials of his department indicated that they had a minimum requirement of 45 units of which they did not need delivery until September 1976 and that they could have been supplied. In view of that, would he now reconsider the contract with Computing Devices?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, as far as the first part of the question is concerned, I think the answer I gave the hon. member was no; the details might have differed somewhat, but the substance of the answer is no.

With respect to the latter part of the question, namely whether I shall revise my decision to cancel our contract with Computer Devices Ltd., my answer is also no. I do not intend to revise my decision since it was based, as I indicated to the House, on the fact that the delivery was to be delayed. Second, while we had called for tenders and agreed on a firm price, the company wanted to revise its price and increase it substantially. Third, the project submitted included major deficiencies; therefore the client department, the Department of National Defence, did not accept the product.

[English]

TERMINALS FOR SAMSON PROJECT—POSSIBLE CONTRACT WITH UNITED STATES COMPANY RATHER THAN CANADIAN

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Supply and Services whether or not he has made alternate arrangements for getting the material requested and whether this has been done through the Teletype Corporation of the United States. If so, does that not breach the very objectives of the program which wanted Canadian manufactured goods?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, indeed we are going to deal with the company which filed the second lowest tender; it is an American company, but I do not believe that Canadians necessarily expect us to deal with Canadian companies, at any cost and under any circumstances. We must act intelligently and first try to get the product we need.