

*Oral Questions***CANADA POST CORPORATION**

## HOME DELIVERY GUIDELINES

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post. My question pertains to the subject of home delivery. Many people who live in newly constructed homes have found to their dismay that they do not qualify for home delivery under the new guidelines set down by Canada Post. Is the Minister willing to reconsider the position of the Post Office in this regard?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I understand the Hon. Member's concern. I would like to tell him that last June Canada Post announced its intention to expand its services to the Canadian people. As the Hon. Member knows, the Marchment Commission is examining the benefit of expanding this type of service. As soon as we have its recommendations, which should be sometime in November, we will deal with them.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**

## POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC ON TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister.

Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell this House whether the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) asked the Premier of Quebec, Mr. Johnson, when he met him last week, to transfer the jurisdiction over certain economic areas to the Federal Government, in order to be able to reach an agreement with the Government of the United States?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** No, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

## SUMMONING OF CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, could the Deputy Prime Minister assure this House that such a request will not be made to the Provinces before a constitutional assembly is called, in order for the provincial powers to be transferred to the Canadian Government in a legal way?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I can give no such assurance to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You should.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Whip of the Official Opposition says I should. Of course I should not. In view of the absence of any urgency the question would be more appropriately put when the Prime Minister is back in the House.

**Mr. Gauthier:** The official zipper!

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**PETRO-CANADA**

## ISSUANCE OF AUDITING CONTRACT

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance in the absence of the Prime Minister. It concerns the fact that Petro-Canada is switching its auditing account to a large American-based accounting firm. This is an account reportedly worth up to approximately \$2 million annually. In the interests of keeping jobs in Canada will the Minister assure the House that all major accounting firms in Canada were first approached by Petro-Canada? Can he tell the House why the decision was made to give this rather lucrative contract to an American-based firm?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am at a bit of a loss as to why the question was put to me. However, I will bring it to the attention of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and she will get back to the Hon. Member.

• (1440)

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is, obviously, the Minister of Finance, and these things go through an NOC.

## ELECTION CONTRIBUTION INQUIRY

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Can the Minister confirm that the real reason the Arthur Anderson Company received this contract is that it reportedly contributed over \$100,000 to the Conservative election campaign last year? Is that the real reason this contract did not go to some major Canadian-based accounting firm?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is grovelling in the gutter.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** There is no basis upon which he should make that allegation. However, as I said in my previous response, I will bring the substance of the Hon. Member's question to the attention of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and she will get back to him.