

Government Orders

We could not agree more that we need a centre that will develop management skills, and improve the productivity of public sector employees and the quality of services offered to Canadians.

However, a number of reservations were expressed by my colleagues from the Liberal caucus. One of my colleagues from the other place was concerned that the government would be competing directly with the universities and their public administration programs. I share his concern, but I am confident that academics on the board of directors will ensure that the centre complements courses offered by various Canadian universities but does not try to take their place. Briefly, the centre will offer a wide range of courses, seminars, conferences and development workshops for managers. To do so, it will need many case studies as well as a wealth of documentation, most of which does not exist at this time, either in the public sector or our universities.

Other colleagues were concerned about hiring procedures, powers and accountability of the board of directors, and the need to ensure the centre remains sensitive to the needs of the public service. Finally, there were concerns that the centre would become an elite club for senior executives. I must admit I share some of these concerns, since there is no mention of ways of increasing the number of Francophones at senior levels or of providing for equitable representation of women, visible minorities, aboriginal people and the disabled. However, my greatest concern would be to see a stagnating public service.

I would like to mention the Corporate Management Strategy, as presented by the Canadian Center for Management Development. On the title page we see the theme:

[*English*]

"Excellence in thought and action to overcome today's problems and to meet tomorrow's challenges".

The Statement of Mission and Vision is extremely admirable:

The mission of the Canadian Centre for Management Development is to strengthen the management capacity of the public sector, and particularly of the senior levels of the federal public service, with a view to improving the quality of government and enhancing the service to the people of Canada.

This mission will be accomplished, in full co-operation with Canada's best in the public, private, and academic sectors, by extending the frontiers of knowledge in the practice of public sector management and by developing in public servants the knowledge, values, and skills critical to overcoming current and future management challenges.

[*Translation*]

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that I am delighted the centre will take up residence in the historic Académie de La Salle building, located in the National Capital Region. I hope the University of Ottawa will also be involved. This location witnessed the earliest beginnings of the University of Ottawa, at the turn of the century. Several years ago, the federal government renovated the premises, and it has given us a building that makes us proud of our heritage. The architecture was well preserved throughout the renovation of a building that was originally a French Canadian institution.

The University of Ottawa was founded at the turn of the century, and I myself had the honour and the privilege of graduating from the university in the 50s, with a master's in administration, majoring in education.

[*English*]

I hope the centre will be open and accessible to both public and private interests, including MPs and their staffs, to promote understanding of government. The centre will be a benefit to small government agencies and scientific establishments that previously had no place for developing and fine tuning management skills.

• (1350)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the Associate Minister of National Defence.

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INCOME TAX ACT

NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO S.O. 57

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to give notice that at the next sitting of the House, immediately before the Order of the Day is called for resuming the debate on the motion of the Minister of Finance for second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Finance of Bill C-52, and on any amendments proposed