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government contract regulations. The issue seems to be that there have been contracts awarded by the Department of Public Works without going to tenders or competitions and that are in excess of the \$100,000 threshold. I understand that up until September 30, 1982 there was a threshold of \$30,000; for anything over that DPW had to go into competition. Following September 30 Treasury Board gave approval for that threshold to be increased to \$100,000, even while acknowledging the fact that they had been asked to increase the threshold to \$500,000.

Now, it seems there have been several contraventions of Treasury Board regulations; the Auditor General has listed for us some 14 contraventions of the \$100,000 threshold. They range in dollar value from some \$209,000, at a low, to a maximum of \$1,480,000 as the high. I am wondering what sanctions, or what discipline, what concerns of Treasury Board—and I direct this to Dr. Meyboom—have been passed on, either in writing or voiced, to the Department of Public Works because of the violation of the threshold level.

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Dr. P. Meyboom (Deputy Secretary, Administrative Policy Branch, Treasury Board of Canada): Mr. Chairman, through you to Mr. Anguish, the Treasury Board and the Secretariat, on behalf of Ministers, passed on, on several occasions, their concern, as a result of which eventually the department began to comply with the regulations as they were amended.

As far as sanctions are concerned, I think it is important to realize that a department, or a Minister, is not accountable to Treasury Board. The Minister is accountable to Parliament and observations concerning the compliance of a department with Treasury Board policies and Treasury Board regulations, or indeed government contract regulations, are made by the Auditor General, as is being done in this case, with the result that the department, if there is a breach of the regulations, is accountable to Parliament, in this case a parliamentary committee.

So the procedure that is being used is the kind of procedure that is normal in the case where a department does not follow particular regulations.

Mr. Anguish: There certainly seems to be a breach of at least Treasury Board regulations, when the \$100,000 threshold is set and DPW finds it . . . , in their wisdom—and hopefully got authority from somewhere—to go into contracts during that period on at least 14 different occasions, most of which are far in excess, some of them 14 times in excess, of the threshold that the Treasury Board had set for DPW. I would like to know from Mr. Mackay on what authority the Department of Public Works awarded the contracts in excess of the Treasury Board \$100,000 limit without doing competitive bidding.

Mr. Mackay: Is that a question?

Mr. Anguish: The question is to you: Who gave you the authority to break the threshold of \$100,000? On what authority did you do that?

[Translation]

aurait eu des contrats octroyés par le ministère des Travaux publics sans appel d'offres, sans concours, et leur valeur était supérieure à 100,000\$. Jusqu'au 30 septembre 1982, il fallait pour tout contrat supérieur à 30,000\$, que le ministère des Travaux publics fasse un concours. Après cette date, le Conseil du Trésor a relevé ce seuil à 100,000\$, tout en disant qu'on lui avait demandé de le relever jusqu'à 500,000\$.

Il semble qu'il y aurait eu violation de ces règlements du Conseil du Trésor car le vérificateur général a dressé une liste de 14 contrats dont la valeur s'échelonne entre 209,000\$ et 1,480,000\$. M. Meyboom pourrait-il nous dire quelles mesures le Conseil du Trésor a prises à l'endroit du ministère des Travaux publics pour dépassement de ce plafond.

M. P. Meyboom (sous-secrétaire, Direction de la politique administrative, Conseil du Trésor): Monsieur le président, après que le Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor ait fait des remontrances à plusieurs reprises, le ministère a commencé à appliquer les règlements tels que modifiés.

Pour ce qui est de sanctions éventuelles, je vous ferai remarquer qu'un ministre rend des comptes, non pas au Conseil du Trésor, mais au Parlement; il appartient au Vérificateur général de signaler toute entorse au règlements du Conseil du Trésor de la part d'un ministère, lequel doit en rendre compte au Parlement et en l'occurrence au Comité parlementaire.

Donc la procédure suivie est tout à fait normale.

M. Anguish: Le ministère des Travaux publics a largement dépassé le plafond de 100,000\$ fixés par le Conseil du Trésor dans 14 cas au moins. M. Mackay pourrait-il nous dire qui a autorisé le ministère des Travaux publics a accordé des contrats dépassant le plafond de 100,000\$ sans lancer des appels d'offres.

M. Mackay: Vous m'avez posé une question?

M. Anguish: Je vous demande qui a autorisé le ministère a dépassé le plafond de 100,000\$?