

Hansard, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House grant its moral support to the Speaker of the House of Commons in order that during the coming election period those offices be enlarged or the *Hansard* staff relocated with a view to respecting at least the minimal standards for a healthy work environment that usually apply in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43, such a motion cannot be put without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LOTO CANADA

REPORTED WASTE RESULTING FROM ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF LOTO SELECT PROGRAM

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and it concerns the government's abortive attempt to set up a computerized lottery last year.

Can the minister confirm the report which was on the CBC national news last night, that the waste as a result of the government's mishandling of the Loto Select program will total some \$13 million, with almost \$8 million being put up by the federal government and over \$5 million being paid by the provinces?

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm the report. I have said I would table it in the House of Commons and it is my intention to do so today. For once the CBC got the correct figures, so I can say that it is a total of \$13.2 million of a committed contract of \$60 million.

An hon. Member: Shame.

Mrs. Campagnolo: The provinces of Ontario and Quebec will pay \$5.15 million and Loto Canada will pay \$7.97 million. The hon. member should think about his comment with regard to wastage, because this \$8 million has purchased a profit for Loto Canada and, therefore, for all the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, surely this is the first minister of the Crown in the history of Canada who would brag about wasting \$13 million belonging to the people of Canada. The minister has so far refused to tell the House whether or not, knowing that the Loto Select program might never get off the ground, she at least had the common sense to insert into

contracts with suppliers a cancellation clause that would allow her to escape.

On December 6 and December 7, the minister gave a firm undertaking to the House that she would table those contracts in the House upon termination of the contracts. Will the minister now table those contracts and, further, will she tell the House specifically if she at least had the common sense, when dealing with millions of dollars of Canadian taxpayers' money, to include cancellation clauses in the contracts and, particularly, in the multimillion dollar contract with General Instruments Ltd.?

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, I think that I am the first cabinet minister who has ever made profits like \$200 million.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Ho, ho. The \$200 million woman.

Mrs. Campagnolo: A sexist remark from the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

Mr. Nowlan: The minister of fun and games.

Mrs. Campagnolo: As to the question, the signed document is a commercial document for General Instruments, and even though it is cancelled it still retains its commercial proprietary confidentiality. Therefore, the people, who are the taxpayers, might be liable for damages if I were to make this particular contract public at this time.

As to the hon. member's second question with regard to the commitment by Ontario and Quebec, it is in like space: the commitment will be met on March 5 after which, and with their concurrence, I would consider tabling it.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, we are told that the cover-up will continue for at least several more weeks. In the four months which elapsed between the time the minister announced the birth of this abortive Loto Select program in June, and the date in October when she announced its death, she managed to squander public funds, of which she was the trustee, at a rate of more than \$75 a minute, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In view of this fact, is the minister now prepared to take the only honourable course of action open to her and submit her resignation from the cabinet?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oxford.

GRANTS TO SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the minister refused to answer that last question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House should know that the question was clearly argumentative and that I did not permit the minister to answer.