

fall of 1977. Two days before the meeting, the B.C. government representative for lotteries refused to attend; thus, all the other provinces refused to attend as well. I spent the next several months trying to set up another meeting. It was at the initiative of the federal government that the meeting was held at Regina in June of this year.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### LETTING OF CONTRACT WITH GENERAL INSTRUMENTS

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Obviously, the minister is talking about meetings after expenditures for Loto Select were made.

I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Yesterday, the minister said that the Crown corporation, meaning Loto Canada, acted without the advice of the government. In view of the fact that the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport has just stated that she wanted to have a meeting with the provinces in that regard and Loto Canada was involved, can he confirm or deny what he said yesterday? Also, can the minister advise the House whether he has been able to find out, as he promised yesterday, anything regarding the letting of the contract with General Instruments Corporation, without tender?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday that the Crown corporation acted independently, and I think that is what I still say today.

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

#### PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT—ADVICE OF GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. Can we have an answer to the question put by my colleague? Did Loto Canada, in the matter of the purchase of equipment, act with, or without, the advice of the Government of Canada?

**Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** As the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce said, we are a Crown corporation and we took our responsibility. That is not to say that we are in any way different from any other representative Crown corporation in the lottery business for, indeed, as the hon. member opposite knows, in the case of Ontario for instance they did precisely the same thing and dealt with the U.S. corporation as well, one which we have never heard of in the House.

**Mr. Clark:** In her enthusiasm today—and I am pleased to see she is now refraining from advertising the superior virtues of CTV over CBC—the minister has declined to answer the question put by myself and my colleague.

What, precisely, was the role of the minister involved in the decision by Loto Canada to purchase this equipment? Was

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there advice, or was there not advice? Was there consultation by Loto Canada, or was there no consultation? Is Loto Canada, or are officials of that corporation, being hung up to dry by the Government of Canada, or is the government going to take responsibility either for the advice it gave, or for the failure to scrutinize the activities of the Crown corporation responsible to it, which resulted in a significant error costing Canadians millions of dollars?

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** As the Leader of the Opposition knows, or should know, we are a Crown corporation subject to the fiscal restraints of a Crown corporation, subject to the Financial Administration Act and subject, as well, to the Auditor General. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition would be quite interested to know that I feel the only people who are being hung out to dry are the people of Canada, by virtue of his continued references to the provinces in this matter.

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

● (1452)

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition has made it perfectly clear that should he—heaven forbid—ever be on this side of the House, he would cancel Loto Canada. In doing so he would deny the athletes and the broad cultural dimension of this country—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the minister's colleagues were shouting to give the minister some time to cool down. My question is a simple one: was the minister or any other minister of the Government of Canada involved in the decision, or contacted with regard to the decision, before it was made in respect of Loto Canada to purchase this equipment? Yes, or no?

**An hon. Member:** Yes, or no yourself, Joe.

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

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has said that I require time to cool down. I might say that is very interesting, in the context of this morning's CBC report which said I sat at my desk yesterday, long after question period, in order to cool down.

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

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** Mr. Speaker, I want to make it plain that I was still sitting here at ten o'clock last night because it was my duty day in the House. That is the kind of reporting we have had over this issue.

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

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** And that is the kind of attitude that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has taken. I am saying that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has been invited by the sports