

The Ministry of Supply and Services decides who should do it. That was the basis on which this contract was awarded.

With regard to the second question, obviously Mr. Robson had nothing to do with the decision on who would be awarded that contract since the contract was awarded by the Ministry of Supply and Services.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Supply and Services awards the contract. Someone in the Department of Finance determines what its needs are. Mr. Robson was there for a month before the contract was let.

MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Was he aware of the family relationship between the Minister of Finance and Lawson Murray? Was he aware of the relationship between Mr. Robson, who worked in his office, and Lawson Murray? On the weekend his press secretary suggested that he was not.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, for many years the Bank of Canada has been running an advertising program for marketable bonds. The Bank approached the Department of Supply and Services for an agency to carry on this activity. My Department selected the agency because, according to one individual who informed me, this is the best advertising agency in Canada for handling financial institutions. They have proven that to us by the way they handled this particular account. They demonstrated that the money spent for years by the Liberals was being wasted. We are going to save \$500,000 to \$600,000 a year.

The answer to the question is no, we did not know. We selected Lawson Murray on the basis that it is the best agency for this kind of work. I have here the proof that they in fact did a good job and are saving the taxpayers—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: Why does the Member object to having someone save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

● (1450)

AIR TRANSPORT

CARRIAGE OF PCB CONTAMINATED MATERIAL

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It concerns the bungling by the Ontario Government of the PCB spill.

The Minister will be aware that airport cargo workers want the Ontario Environment Ministry to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for not telling them that they were

Oral Questions

handling deadly PCBs on two passenger flights last week. Given what the Solicitor General said in the House last week, and what the Prime Minister told me on Friday about the Government's willingness to prosecute where violations were found to exist, could the Minister tell us whether any investigation is being made of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment pursuant to dangerous goods legislation, and whether any charges against that Government are being contemplated?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there is provision in the Aeronautics Act which covers the transportation of dangerous goods. The issue to which the Hon. Member refers is under active consideration by departmental officials.

INVOLVEMENT OF ONTARIO MINISTRY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that the suggestion of laying charges against the Ontario Ministry of the Environment is under active consideration—

Mr. Mazankowski: No.

Mr. Blaikie:—because that would certainly be a good idea, given the way it has handled the situation.

I want the Minister to be clear. Is it possible that there is a recourse in federal law for the people of Canada against the negligence of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, or is the only recourse to toss out the Tories next week, when they have the chance?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, unlike the NDP, we try to obtain all the facts before we start engaging in loose rhetoric like the Hon. Member.

* * *

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

ALLEGED SYSTEMATIC PATRONAGE CONCERNING FARM LOAN NOTARIES

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister. He told us before that changes had been made in patronage procedures and, sure enough, the Farm Credit Corporation was one of the victims of such changes, since his Government has set up a systematic patronage system concerning notaries handling FCC loans.

As we all know, the Agricultural Producers' Union management spoke out against that procedure last week, going as far as occupying the Farm Credit Corporation office in Sherbrooke. We also know that the Board of Notaries has urged that the procedure be abandoned. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he has asked the Minister of Agriculture to