

Oral Questions

Minor amendments will not do. There is only one type of citizenship in this country and that is first-class citizenship for one and all.

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CANADA WINTER GAMES

TRIBUTE TO CAPE BRETON VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I want to salute thousands of volunteers who lent their time and energy to the 1987 Canada Winter Games in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. More than 6,000 people volunteered their services in a great variety of ways. They provided first aid to the athletes, assisted the media, provided back-up support to the many performing artists, and their warm hospitality extended not only to athletes but, indeed, to all visitors.

The efforts of these people were a vital part of the success of the Games which most observers agreed were the very best. All Cape Bretoners ought to take pride in the success of the Games. From the time the athletes arrived to the moment the flame was extinguished, all events associated with the Games proceeded flawlessly.

All Canadians and all Members of the House would, I am sure, want to join with me in saluting the efforts of the people of Cape Breton in making the 1987 Canada Winter Games such a significant success. Congratulations, volunteers, for a job well done.

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AGRICULTURE

MANITOBA SUGAR COMPANY PLANT CLOSING—EFFECT ON FARMERS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, today the Manitoba Sugar Company announced the closure of its Winnipeg plant and the lay-off of 73 employees by July 10. Sugar beets will not be contracted in Manitoba this year. The industry will lie dormant due to the deception of the federal Government and the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board who promised on May 2, 1985, that: "The federal Government will not require any further financial participation by the Manitoba Government beyond the 1985 crop year". Manitoba provided \$2.8 million that year. Alberta planted no beets.

The Minister now says there is no agricultural stabilization plan for beet producers except a tripartite proposal. The Government continues to provide full funding under the Agricultural Stabilization Act for eastern farmers. It is also fully funding the five-year dairy program. But it cannot live up

to this commitment to Manitoba farmers. No wonder Canadian farmers are displeased with the Government. It is playing political games with their future.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

CONTRACT WITH MR. PÉLOQUIN—QUERY WHETHER GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO DEMAND PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services and again concerns the role played by Mr. Jean Pélouquin in awarding certain advertising contracts. I finally received a copy of Mr. Pélouquin's contract, and I want to thank the Minister for sending it to me yesterday and for reversing the decision of those persons who had turned down my initial request. Incidentally, I hope the Minister of Public Works will do the same for the contracts for Place Vincent-Massey.

I would like to ask the Minister, since article 19 of the contract signed by Mr. Pélouquin with the Government says clearly that the entrepreneur should have no pecuniary interests that might influence him in making his decisions, whether in the light of these facts, she is now prepared to demand a public inquiry so that all Canadians will know exactly what happened?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, this week I said time and time again in the House that following allegations that were made about Mr. Pélouquin's behaviour, I asked for legal advice. I received that advice yesterday from my legal adviser who is recommending, first of all, that we order an internal audit of the activities of the Advertising Management Group and second, I asked the Department's security service to investigate the allegations. My Department's security service will therefore have full authority to do whatever is necessary to shed light on the present situation.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Minister that it seems even this group will have no official investigating powers. We have just gone from one level to another level in the same department.

• (1120)

[English]

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): What we are talking about here is not an everyday contract. We are talking about a contract to provide advice to the Tory Government in relation to selecting which Tory firm is to be rewarded by Tories.