

[Translation]

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

#### SINGING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM AT SPORTING EVENTS— MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. D. M. Collette (York East):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I request the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion dealing with an urgent and important matter. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia):

[English]

That this House joins in commending the Toronto Blue Jays' organization and team for its presentation of Canada's national anthem during the Victoria Day weekend . . .

[Translation]

. . . thus showing their confidence in a united Canada and in both official languages.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Presentation of such a motion at this time requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

#### PRACTICE IN AWARDING COMPUTER CONTRACTS

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services: it concerns the contracts to IST in Montreal. Since there were five companies involved in bidding for the two contracts, one for the Department of National Health and Welfare and the other for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, can the minister indicate whether all of the companies bidding were made aware of the additional criteria prior to submitting their bids?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I must say to the hon. member that my department did not call for tenders for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The latter attends to its own needs. As for the Department of National Health and Welfare, I

### Oral Questions

have already answered that question, I believe, giving all the necessary details. My parliamentary secretary also answered the question, and I indicated quite clearly that of the five companies, three were highly qualified technically. The three made similar bids. So, it was a matter of deciding, according to other criteria, who would be awarded the contract. That is when I applied the criteria for ensuring a better distribution of government purchases among the various parts of Canada. I have done so for the west and for the maritimes and am doing so now for Quebec. That is one way of achieving the objectives Parliament itself has set. When parliament approved my budget, it accepted that socio-economic considerations occasionally, and exceptionally, apply. That explains what happened.

● (1417)

[English]

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question concerns government policy in connection with the award of computer contracts. Testimony before the public accounts committee has revealed there are some 17 computers within the Department of Supply and Services' system and that there is available capacity at the moment. Can the minister explain why the government, in this period of restraint, persists in seeking outside computer facilities when its own hardware is perfectly sufficient to fulfil services of this type?

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's information is somewhat outdated. There was a time when the department had an over capacity. This is no longer the case and we are using our computers in a most economical and profitable way. As to the policy of purchasing outside the government cheaper and more efficient services, I am not telling the House anything new when I say that such is my department's policy, a policy which I feel is a good one. We intend to pursue this policy because we feel that it benefits the Canadian taxpayers.

[English]

**Mr. Huntington:** I have to advise the hon. gentleman that testimony before the public accounts committee has shown that an updated program could make all kinds of capacity available within the government's computer system. The minister has mentioned the need to apply socioeconomic criteria when considering the allocation of computer contracts. When 78 per cent of those contracts are for Ontario and 15 per cent are within the province of Quebec, can the minister advise us how these criteria can apply to the other eight provinces which are trying to share the remaining 7 per cent?

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I did not say that I was making exception in the case of computer data processing contracts for socioeconomic considerations. Such considerations apply to all government contracts, but in fact in a most exceptional way—