

As the minister said members of Parliament are in a unique position to make a difference, but we have to understand the problems, and I thank Mr. Keith Branall for helping me understand.

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### CHINA

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, a year ago today the world witnessed the massacre in Beijing's Tiananmen Square when the Chinese government turned against its own people, opening fire on the best of its own youth. Civilians were slain because they dared to stand up for political reform, for increased funding for education, for open dialogue and for personal dignity.

In response the Chinese government ordered the students machine gunned and tanks were allowed to run over innocent citizens.

That event still horrifies us in memory. Families still search for their loved ones.

I therefore urge the government, as Canada marks the first anniversary of that tragic day, to continue with the policy it boldly took then. The Chinese martyrs found courage then to take a public stand. Today, Chinese pro-democracy citizens continue to do so.

Canada cannot do less. Canada cannot turn a blind eye to what it has seen and to its own democratic principles. Appeasement in the name of trade is a betrayal of democracy. Let us by our action continue to give the Chinese people hope that they may conquer fear and persist in their struggle for democracy.

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### NATIONAL CHESS COMPETITION

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, several months ago over 10,000 students across Canada entered a national chess competition to help raise money for projects in the Third World. This year the funds will go to Sister Mona Kelly, a nurse from New Brunswick, to help disadvantaged children in Brazil.

On the Victoria Day weekend in May, the winners from each province played off and national champions were declared: Grade 1—Andrew Ho of Vancouver, B.C.; Grade 2—Lefong Hua of St. Laurent, Quebec; Grade 3—Erez Davy of Windsor, Ontario; Grade 4

### Oral Questions

—Jonathan Beer of Madoc, Ontario; Grade 5—Anthony Castillo of Longueuil, Quebec; Grade 6—Jean-François Gratton of Laval, Quebec; Grade 7—Radu Butan of Toronto, Ontario; Grade 8—Alexandre Marcil of Longueuil, Quebec; Grade 9—Martin Glass of Westmount, Quebec; Grade 10—Luc Tran of Chicoutimi, Quebec; Grade 11—Leonard Morrissey of St. John's, Newfoundland, and Grade 12—Thanh-Nha Duong of Anjou, Quebec.

The Quebec team won the over all championship for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all of the participants and the good work they do for the disadvantaged children of the world.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### ROUTE CANADA

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister concerning the privatization of what is now Route Canada.

Four years ago, in 1986, the government sold Route Canada, the trucking arm of Canadian National, to a man who did not have the financial backing or reputation to be able to get a credit card. At that time there were 3,400 people working for Route Canada. A year and a half after the sale the company went bankrupt, and 1,900 people were out of work. The company was sold after the government did a financial check.

Will the government please explain to the people of Canada and to the people who lost hundreds of thousands of dollars why this government went ahead with this deal?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend's fancy was caught by a headline rather than the facts. In actual fact when the company bought Route Canada the financing was done through the Fingold brothers and not through the individual to whom my hon. friend refers.

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, the records clearly show that the government was discussing the sale of Route Canada with