

RESOURCES

POSSIBILITY OF MEASURES TO EXPAND GOLD MINING

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): My supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the highly volatile monetary situation in the world today and the fact that we are the third largest producer of gold as a mining operation, would the minister indicate if any thought has been given to a stabilization program to ensure that our gold mining can be expanded from its present level?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, a number of submissions were made a short while ago when the world price for gold dropped below what was the then economic price for a number of mining properties in Canada. At that time we received submissions from the mining industry, and a task force was formed to examine the proposals of the mining interests. During that period of time, however, the world price for gold was firmed, and indeed exceeded the level which was previously considered to be the economic level, so that the need for consideration of a stabilization plan was, very happily, overtaken by events.

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SPORTS

LOSS OF AMATEUR ATHLETES TO PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES WITHOUT COMPENSATION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. Because of the fact that professional leagues, teams and shows continue to drain talent from amateur ranks without any compensation whatsoever for the development of amateur sport as outlined to the minister this morning by representatives of amateur hockey, can the minister advise the House what immediate and positive steps she intends to take in this regard?

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I have requested and received the assent of the chairman of Hockey Canada to promptly convene a meeting with a representative of the National Hockey League, the World Hockey Association, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, and the Canadian Major Junior Hockey Association. This meeting's first item of business would be to agree to pay outstanding draft fees. In this regard we have something of a labour disagreement which can only be resolved at the bargaining table.

Mr. Jelinek: In view of the fact that CMJH and CAHA both insist that the very existence of junior and amateur hockey in Canada is being threatened, would the minister and the government consider taking some long reaching initiatives? Would the minister consider initiating as soon as possible a program whereby all professional organizations benefitting from the talents of Canadian amateurs be made to contribute

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to the respective sports bodies accordingly, something on a long range basis rather than ad hoc?

Mrs. Campagnolo: It has been the position of this government not to interfere directly in the decisions of the sports governing bodies. We hope that in this regard it will be possible for an example to be set by these participants in the present negotiations. Failing that, of course, other initiatives will be taken.

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● (1440)

POST OFFICE

SLOW DELIVERY OF WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Postmaster General. It arises out of the fact that weekly newspapers in my constituency have been receiving letters from subscribers cancelling their subscriptions because of the late arrival of the newspapers. After a protest was lodged with the Edmonton branch a note was sent from the post office saying that it takes four or five days from the time newspapers are published to arrive at the post office, and also that the file on that particular complaint is closed. Does the Postmaster General agree with such shoddy service from the post office for these weekly newspapers?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the particular circumstances the hon. member is bringing to my attention.

Mr. Forrestall: It happens all over Canada.

Mr. Blais: The hon. member should know that in large measure weekly newspapers are carried by the post office free and that they are not priority items.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Since when?

Mr. Fairweather: You are in the wrong portfolio.

Mr. Blais: It is our intention to maintain that particular subsidization, and I will look into the circumstances which the hon. member has brought to my attention.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I am appalled that the minister would say that this is not a priority item. In view of the fact that on this note it says that the file is closed, will the minister personally intervene with these regional offices to see that weekly newspapers which service the small communities of this country receive the adequate service to which they are traditionally accustomed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton.