

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the lessening of tension in Europe has led to a decision to bring 1,400 NATO troops back to Canada. More recently, there has been a Soviet-American agreement to reduce troops and military hardware in Europe. This will facilitate a further Canadian withdrawal of its NATO forces, which number 6,200 army and air force personnel.

It is time for the Department of National Defence to do some serious re-examination of its policy on base closures. For example, where will the 2,000 air force personnel be stationed when they come back?

The Department of National Defence now has an opportunity to correct or at least partially correct the error made in closing CFB Summerside and leaving Prince Edward Island as the only province without a military base. Leaving 413 Squadron, Search and Rescue, in Summerside will complement the helicopter repair business being recruited to locate on the base, will encourage the location of similar types of industries in Summerside, maintain Search and Rescue in its proven best location and show that DND has the ability to adapt to changing world realities and implement policies which make military and economic sense.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL RENOVATION MONTH

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress again the enormous importance of housing in this country, both as a material and social asset.

Canadians in general are well housed, but our houses are getting old. More than 20 percent of all houses in Canada are now over 40 years old, and this will increase to 50 percent by the end of the century. Many of these houses, which are an important source of affordable housing, will need major repairs. In fact, some 10 percent of our apartments are already in need of serious attention.

The month of October was designated National Renovation Month in Canada. The federal government, through Central Mortgage and Housing Canada, will

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work together with the renovation industry to protect and promote this important national investment.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Canadian Home Builders' Association and the Bank of Montreal for their role in raising awareness on this important issue.

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[English]

HEALTH

Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, in June in this House I raised the question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare's \$4 million cut to the budget of the National Health Research and Development Program.

Over the summer I was in touch with leading researchers and learned firsthand of the damage caused by these cuts. It is important to understand that this is the government's only program for funding applied health research, which includes preventive health care, health promotion, disease prevention, work place hazards, cancer prevention and native health care.

As incredible as it may seem, all innovative health care research has been put on hold or permanently cancelled by this short-sighted government. One University of Quebec researcher affected by the cuts proposed to study the risks of cancer due to asbestos exposure in the general environment. The Minister of National Health and Welfare knows as well as anyone that it is far less expensive to prevent cancer than to treat it.

I urge the minister to restore the funding for health care research now.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Chalk one up for Mother Nature, Mr. Speaker. This fall the Adams River in British Columbia has witnessed the largest migratory run of sockeye salmon in 77 years. Twenty-one million sockeye returned from the Pacific Ocean to begin their 560 kilometre odyssey to the spawning beds along the Adams—proof positive that