

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the original question that was asked by the hon. gentleman. I might point out though, that I heard his question and his allegation relating to there being a belief that there is a winnable nuclear war. The hon. gentleman knows as well as we that there is no way that any nuclear confrontation would result in any one part being successful. We are facing the difficulties of which the hon. gentleman is very well aware.

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### OLYMPIC GAMES

#### FUNDING OF CALGARY WINTER OLYMPICS

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. Could he tell the House why he refuses to honour the agreement which was reached with the previous Minister on December 22? What did the previous Minister do that is so wrong that he cannot honour that agreement regarding the funding of the Calgary Olympics?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, if I may correct the Hon. Member, we have not refused to implement the proposal, quite the contrary! The agreement of December 22 is still on the table. We have simply said that we want to know how this amount of \$200 million will be spent. I think the Hon. Member will agree with me that we cannot give a blank cheque without insisting on knowing how the money will be spent. Those are the only questions we have asked the organization committee.

[English]

#### TERMS OF DECEMBER PROPOSAL—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the Minister's proposal of December 22, and I have this Minister's proposal of January 20. It is not simply a matter of determining how it will be spent. In effect, the January 20 agreement violates the arrangements made with the International Olympic Committee and it puts the Calgary committee in the position of having an open pocketbook, and eliminates the federal Government from any sense of cost control. The previous agreement did not do any of those things. Why will he not honour the proposal which the previous Minister made on December 22?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the position of the Canadian Government has always been the same. Quite simply, perhaps the people in Calgary were under the impression that they could have a blank cheque and spend the money as they saw fit.

### Oral Questions

Recently, we have made a very clear proposal and we are prepared to continue the discussions on that issue. Two hundred million dollars is a lot of money! Never before did a Canadian Government invest that much in a sporting event in Canada, and it is altogether normal that we ask questions and want to know how our money will be spent.

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[English]

### VIA RAIL

#### REINSTITUTION OF CANCELLED SERVICES

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It was just over two years ago that the former Minister of Transport, with the stroke of a pen, terminated 20 per cent of Canada's VIA Rail service. My question arises from a *Canadian Press* article which appeared in the paper the other day which quoted Harold Murray, VIA's western vice-president, as saying that the line between Winnipeg and Saskatoon was re-established because people along the way wanted it, and that it is an example of the democratic process. Could the Minister of Transport explain what new democratic process is in place to bring about the return of 20 per cent of Canada's VIA Rail service which was terminated by the former Minister of Transport?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member is fully aware of the various steps we have taken to conduct a review after a two-year period, as the previous Minister of Transport indicated at the time. After a two-year period many of those lines were to be re-examined to determine whether market conditions would reinforce some reinstatement of service. That review was undertaken and, in certain cases, there was a change in market conditions that would justify a re-examination and reinstatement.

As well, we have established a consultative process whereby we have gone into a number of communities and talked to local mayors, boards of trade, provincial officials, and Members of Parliament, to determine what kind of commitment they were prepared to make for any reintroduction of service. I want to say that as the Hon. Member knows, such a consultation has taken place in his own area, so we are already way ahead of him by going into his area and holding those discussions.

**Mr. Domm:** I would like, through you, Mr. Speaker, to remind the Minister that that consultation program to which he refers in the municipality of Peterborough has never taken place between the Minister and the heads of those municipalities. In fact, they have recommended three dates, two of which have expired, and the third is coming up on Tuesday.