

Oral Questions

suggest we did not talk to the same officials. Those I have contacted within my department feel that with 56 extra persons we can go a long way. We are going to implement these new measures, verify the results and, if it is not enough, this responsible Government will do what it has to do.

[English]

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Minister of the Environment that he is the Minister. He has to judge whether he feels that 56 people, which is one person per 100 kilometres, is sufficient.

CHEMICAL WASTE IN FUELS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my supplementary question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have pumped potentially PCB-laden gasoline into their cars. They have possibly touched it. They have smelled it. They have breathed it. What they would like to know from the Minister of Health, who was prepared to act very quickly in the case of the three poisoned Chilean grapes, is what specific action he intends to take to protect the health of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have been pumping gas over the last four years.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my Department will be co-operating fully with the Minister of the Environment. Any resources we have that are available will certainly be put at his disposal.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

MILITARY BASES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of National Defence.

On May 5, 1989, as reported at page 1,368 of *Hansard* the Minister of National Defence stated:

— the men and women who serve in the military today deserve more from the people of Canada than to be located in regions for economic development.

Is the Minister saying that the military do not deserve or want to be stationed in Atlantic Canada, in places such as Summerside, Gander and Sydney? I demand an apology from the Minister on behalf of the Government for making these derogatory remarks.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member would agree that we must make decisions in the Department of National Defence based upon operational effectiveness. We allocate our resources across the country to ensure that we have appropriate defence capabilities in various regions of the country.

CLOSURE OF CFB SUMMERSIDE

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has stated on several occasions that the closure of CFB Summerside was caused, just as the Acting Minister has stated, to reduce the amount of the debt. However, a suggestion was made in the House last Friday by my colleague, the Hon. Member for York Centre, in regard to CFB Toronto which blows a big hole in that rationalization. The Minister has before him an offer whereby the Government could gain three-quarters of a billion dollars, help solve the housing problem in Toronto and solve problems of base closures at the same time. Has the Minister rejected this offer out of hand? If so, why?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is important to understand that the functions that are carried out at the base at Downsview are very different from the functions that are being carried out at the base at Summerside. Summerside has supported a trucker operation which will no longer be required by our Department.

CFB Downsview is a major base which supports militia operations and our National Defence School. It is a major factor in providing for our military activities in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

I am sure my hon. colleague knows that we have already offered to transfer 100 acres from Downsview to the provincial Government for housing requirements.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

CHEMICAL WASTE IN FUELS—EFFECTS ON HEALTH

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of the Environment. PCBs, furans and dioxins have been released in large quantities as a result of the illegal mixture of hazardous chemical wastes into gasoline, diesel and industrial heating fuels. Since the chemical wastes are linked to severe human disorders of the brain, liver, skin and nervous system,