

GATT will take precedence over NAFTA, and could he table in this House the legal opinions on which his answers are based?

[English]

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that Canada's position has been clearly conveyed to the United States on numerous occasions. That is that our belief, our conviction and our best legal advice without question is that the GATT rules take precedence over the NAFTA.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Charlie Penson (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of National Defence.

On two previous occasions, January 26 and February 15, I have asked the minister about the excessively high rates his department pays for the household moves of military personnel. I have never received a satisfactory answer.

I am well aware that the minister has managed to get a 10 per cent reduction in the last tender due to adverse publicity, but this has only scratched the surface of waste and mismanagement.

I ask the minister again today, what is he doing to bring more open and fair competition to defence department household moves?

• (1455)

Hon. David Michael Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think it depends on one's perspective. There are a number of moving companies in Canada, a couple of hundred I think, that are involved in the whole movement of household effects for national defence. We have to move a lot of employees around the country.

We are assured at the moment that we are getting the best deal and we are always trying to seek improvements. I know there are some members in the House, and the hon. member is one of them, who believes that we are not getting the best deal, but I have yet to see the proof. If he has the proof, I will certainly study it.

Mr. Charlie Penson (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, that seems to be a little bit more smoke and mirrors. The Prime Minister has stood in this House and repeatedly asked for ways to save money. It has been suggested that in this department there could be a \$25 million saving.

The *Ottawa Citizen* and the member for Waterloo have both called for an inquiry into the wasteful way in which household moves are conducted. Will the minister come clean with taxpayers and order such an inquiry?

Hon. David Michael Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are not going to order an inquiry. We are looking into every aspect of spending in the department, as my colleagues are in their

departments. If we think we can get a better deal for the taxpayers, we are not wedded to one particular solution.

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[Translation]

COLLÈGE MILITAIRE ROYAL DE SAINT-JEAN

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for federal-provincial relations.

Next week, the Quebec Minister of Education will meet with the minister responsible for federal-provincial relations in an effort to convince Ottawa to preserve the military vocation of the Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean.

Can the minister tell us how the federal government intends to respond to the Quebec government's request to preserve the military vocation of the college in Saint-Jean, an essential condition for maintaining university level courses at this campus?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal): Mr. Speaker, I have already had the opportunity this week to discuss the future of the Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean with Minister Chagnon. Obviously we are going to proceed with the measures announced in the budget and reduce the number of military colleges to one. However, negotiations are continuing and I think they could prove to be productive and satisfactory to both parties.

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[English]

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the justice minister.

Today, if Scott Farion from Edmonton were alive, he would be celebrating his 18th birthday. Instead, his life was cut short when he became Edmonton's first murder victim of 1994. So today his parents are grieving their loss rather than enjoying his birthday.

The tragedy of this case is that Scott's murder could have been prevented. Scott's alleged killer is a 16-year old repeat offender who was out on probation for another crime at the time of the murder.

What can the minister tell Scott's parents today to assure them that this government plans to get tough with young offenders?

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I believe that case may still be before the courts. Therefore I do not want to comment on the facts of the case apart from expressing my sorrow at the description of the tragedy that has been given by the hon. member.