

**Mr. McKinley:** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the answer of the minister. It is another indication that he is failing to look after the people that he was given the job of looking after.

#### AMOUNT SPENT IN PROMOTING SKIM MILK POWDER

**Mr. John Wise (Elgin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It is prompted by his actions and the reasons given for the abrupt removal of the skim milk powder subsidy, meaning a loss of some \$13 million. What advertising or promotional programs, if any, were carried out by the government to encourage greater utilization by lower income groups of that product, bearing in mind that the minister's own agency, the Canadian Dairy Commission, had a budget of \$4 million to spend on advertising and promotion. What portion of that \$4 million was spent in promoting skim milk powder?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to say how much was spent to promote skim milk powder. I am sure we all recognize that Canadian society was never more educated with regard to the fact that skim milk powder is a highly nourishing type of food and was put on the market at a very cheap price. That knowledge was available to all. Surveys show that some of the people who are the greatest users of skim milk powder did not read either one of the official languages, but they knew the value of it.

The ads were provided by the supermarkets and the dairy industry promoting this product. The people who use skim milk powder to the greatest extent are not those for whom the subsidy was intended. Continued use of skim milk powder is taking place in the upper income groups; therefore, it is contrary to what the whole policy was for.

**Mr. Wise:** Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister has not answered my question. Will he reconsider his decision and give serious consideration to providing a subsidy to regions of the country with high unemployment or those regions where the wage rate is lower than the national average? Also, will he make available to us the study on which he based his decision to discontinue the program?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, the study was made by Statistics Canada. With regard to the use of skim milk powder in the far reaches of Canada, that is not only being considered by my department but by other departments. They know that this is the easiest way to ship this highly nutritious food, skim milk powder, which contains so many of the minerals that are necessary for those in our society to survive. Therefore, we are doing that very thing.

#### Oral Questions

[Translation]

#### SPORTS

##### INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST CERTAIN CITIES TO OBTAIN NHL FRANCHISE

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State responsible for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

In view of the fact that the minister has publicly indicated that she hoped Quebec City, Winnipeg and Edmonton would obtain NHL franchises, and that the Quebec Nordiques announced yesterday that they would apply very shortly for such a franchise, could the minister advise the House whether the government would accept to grant financial assistance to these cities and help them meet the NHL requirements as to the capacity of their sport facilities?

[English]

**Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, not only with regard to hockey facilities does such a need exist. I draw the hon. member's attention to a number of Canadian cities where stadium needs are also paramount for Canadian Football League survival. I am in favour of examining this question with the provinces and the cities involved to determine whether there is a disposition to enhance facilities such as the hon. member suggests. In respect of hockey, I think we are primarily speaking about Quebec City and Winnipeg. I do not think that is the case in Edmonton, because this government has just put \$3.8 million into the coliseum as a result of the Commonwealth Games facility.

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#### PENSIONS

##### REASON SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE REDUCED

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. It concerns the double standard which has developed with regard to the payment of government funds. How does the Prime Minister justify the advance payment of \$2 million to Shaul Eisenberg for post-contract services on the sale of a Candu reactor for which no work has been done and for which the chairman of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has said he expects no work to be done, yet the government does not request the return of that \$2 million, while at the same time the government persists in its tight-fisted attitude of withdrawing from some 2,500 Canadian women who were in receipt of spouse's allowance but for whom the spouse's allowance was cut off on the death of the husband, an amount that comes to less than \$500,000? How does the government justify paying to Mr. Eisenberg on one hand and taking away from Canadian women on the other?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the premises of the question asked by the hon. lady are, of