

*Oral Questions**[Translation]***NATIONAL DEFENCE**

Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

Yesterday in this House, in responding to a question I asked him, the Minister of National Defence did not seem to know about the Eagle River exercise, which is nothing but a sumptuous fishing trip at Canadian taxpayers' expense.

Did the Minister of National Defence make inquiries and can he assure us that there was no Eagle River exercise or any other similar activity in 1994?

[English]

Hon. David Collette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I said this should be put on the Order Paper yesterday is that I could not believe the hon. member was asking a question about a facility that was closed two years ago and before this government came into power.

As far as I am concerned that facility is closed. The province of Newfoundland has indicated some interest in taking it back. That is all I have to say.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I still think that the minister did not answer my question. I asked him if there had been other similar activities. I did not get an answer.

Did the Minister of National Defence issue directives to Canadian Forces officers forbidding them to organize activities similar to the Eagle River exercise and, if so, will he table them in this House?

[English]

Hon. David Collette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to which activities the hon. member is referring, but I will certainly take this as a representation and draw it to the attention of the chief of defence staff.

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SPORTS CANADA

Mr. Hugh Hanrahan (Edmonton—Strathcona, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, Sports Canada receives \$64 million a year to help Canada's athletes. Unfortunately a paltry 8 per cent or approximately \$5 million of that \$64 million actually reaches Canadian athletes. Over \$42 million is being spent to administer a huge, cumbersome sports bureaucracy.

My question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Is Sports Canada there to benefit the athlete or the bureaucracy?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, our colleague presumably must have been listening to my speeches. I have said repeatedly that I consider the athlete should have first priority. And I have done more than say it. We are in the process of putting into place a sports funding and accountability framework that will ensure at long last that the athletes receive the rewards they deserve.

Mr. Hugh Hanrahan (Edmonton—Strathcona, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, Canadians want action, not more studies. Will the minister act to rectify the gross mismanagement in Sports Canada?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I already gave the answer. We are acting. We are putting policy into place with no more studies but action from now on.

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• (1435)

*[Translation]***BLOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM**

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

The minister herself claims that everything is now being done to ensure the quality of blood products and the safety of the blood supply in Canada. But we learned that the Canadian Bureau of Biologics has yet to approve two factor IX products used to treat haemophilia B.

How can the minister justify that these products, which are purer and of higher quality than existing products, have not been approved by the Canadian Bureau of Biologics after more than two years?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we have taken the necessary steps, i.e. the steps that can be taken at this time to ensure the safety of the blood supply system, and we will continue to do so.

This does not mean that we are closing the door to new developments or new measures. If you have any information that may help us, by all means, share it with us and we will act on it.

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the minister realize that, because these drugs have not yet been approved by the Canadian Bureau of Biologics, some doctors have to use lower quality products to treat haemophilia B? Does she not realize that?

[English]

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there is a process for approval of drugs within the Department of Health. This process is based on scientific study of the