

SPORTS

SLED-DOG RACING—PRE-OLYMPIC EVENT IN CANMORE, ALTA.

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, one of our fastest growing sports is sled-dog racing. Canada has an enviable reputation, both for its dogs and the athletes who contest the events.

Top Canadian racing dogs are in demand not only in the United States but also in European countries such as Germany and Switzerland.

An international circuit of important races is being developed in North America.

Sled-dog racers, wishing to encourage better support and recognition for their sport, are organizing a major race at Canmore, Alberta, just prior to the Olympic Games. The hope is that within the not too distant future sled-dog racing will itself become an Olympic sport.

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[Translation]

THE ARTS

QUEBEC DANCE GROUPS—OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENT TO GIVE GRANTS

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, this morning, there was a demonstration in Ottawa in front of the National Arts Centre. It was a joint demonstration by three Quebec dance groups: Eddy Toussaint, Ballet Jazz and Les Sortilèges.

These groups are asking for more generous grants from the Canada Council. All three are nationally and even internationally known. They are loved and appreciated by everyone except, it seems, the Government of Canada. The Government, through the Canada Council, has refused to increase their grants. This, while we so often hear about the need for preserving our Canadian culture!

Well, gentlemen, here is your chance! Considering the Conservative Government's interest in the arts, Mr. Speaker, I would ask this Government to listen to these Quebec dance groups and meet their requests, to help promote Canada's culture and the arts through the medium of dance.

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[English]

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

OLYMPIC TORCH—DECEMBER 16 ARRIVAL ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, may I remind all Hon. Members that Parliament Hill will welcome the Olympic Torch on the morning of December 16.

I urge all Members, people from the other place, and staff, to take an active part in the planned festivities. Most of us have received an invitation from the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) to a unique reception that will take place on the evening of December 15 in honour of the Torch.

I look forward to sharing the spirit with the Minister, and meeting members of Canada's national sport governing bodies, Olympians past and present, Torch carriers, and many other interesting personalities.

In Edmonton we are very excited that the Torch will be arriving on February 10, one of its last stops before reaching the Fifteenth Winter Olympics in Calgary.

I congratulate the Minister on the success of the relay to date. The Torch has given Canadians an issue around which to rally. We all want the Calgary Winter Olympics to be the best of all. It is simply a matter of national pride!

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON CANADIAN WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) in a letter to Mr. Alan Brock, the Chairman of the B.C. Grape Marketing Board, indicated that the Government was providing assurances "that changes arising from a Canada/U.S.A. Trade Agreement would not be implemented overnight". She went on to say that "full consultation" with the industry would occur.

In a letter to the growers from the British Columbia Grape Marketing Board, the Chairman said the following:

What we now have in this agreement bears absolutely no resemblance to the recommendations put forward by our provincial trade negotiators. We do not have an adjustment period here; we have the premature death of an entire Canadian industry. There is no doubt in our minds that the Canadian wine industry was used as a bargaining chip by our federal officials in their attempts to cut an eleventh hour trade deal. Either that, or we had already been sold out long ago to President Reagan and his powerful southern California wine lobby.

The Canadian wine industry has undoubtedly been singled out in this trade agreement. We are the hardest hit industry within the Canadian economy and we grape growers are by far the most vulnerable segment within this industry.

The British Columbia Grape Marketing Board further states that an immediate compensation package must be