

time, but was indeed motivated by a concern to improve the social and economic living conditions of those Inuit people.

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, the minister just pointed out that it was an extensive consultant's report. Let me point out that from the information we have, this consultant's contract was issued on August 8, 1990, and the final report was due on September 14, 1990. Five weeks is not a very extensive consultant's report.

Mr. Speaker, I will now ask the supplementary. Will the minister agree that the timeframe allowed was far too short for a definitive and conclusive analysis of these events, and will he assure the Inuit people who were so adversely affected by the relocation that this study is not the final word on the subject, and that he is open to further discussions and negotiations with them?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the report goes on:

The evidence that we examined does not support the allegations that the government committed wrongdoing in the planning and conduct of this project. The material we examined leads to a different conclusion, namely, that the project was consciously planned and was carried out in a reasonably effective manner, and that the Inuit participated in it voluntarily in their own search for a better life and benefited from that experience.

In conclusion, I find this report, as does the government, completely acceptable.

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TOBACCO

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, there was some good news on the front page of the *Globe and Mail* yesterday. It pointed out in the news story that the consumption of tobacco in Canada is dropping rapidly: a 7.4 per cent drop in cigarette sales and a 23 per cent drop in fine cut tobacco sales, meaning that Canadians are smoking 10 per cent less this year than last. Clearly the government's strategy to reduce tobacco use in Canada is working.

My question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Could he inform the House today of the government's plans to ensure that this excellent trend in public health continues in the years to come.

Oral Questions

An hon. member: Excellent.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, all members of Parliament should be tremendously heartened by the results showing the 10 per cent drop in the consumption of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco in Canada in the first 10 months of this year.

It is an indication that the legislation passed by this Parliament, the tax measures which have been taken by the Minister of Finance, and the public education measures taken by the government and by a whole range of social agencies across Canada are having a dramatic effect in improving the health of Canadians.

However, as long as 35,000 Canadians continue to lose their lives each year in diseases related to tobacco use, we must continue to keep up the pressure and do everything that we can to reduce this tragic loss of lives.

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• (1500)

[Translation]

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Agriculture. Yesterday, a research group at Laval University concluded that the Tory government's proposal to GATT with respect to the dairy industry would reduce the incomes of dairy farmers by 21 per cent.

What does the Minister of State for Agriculture intend to do to protect Canadian farmers from the disastrous situation created by his colleague, the Minister for International Trade?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I think we should put the findings of this study into perspective. I may remind the hon. member that the vast majority, if not all, of Canadian farm producers support Canada's position at GATT.

Mr. Speaker, the study published yesterday is based on the present situation and does not consider the various changes that will take place over the next 10 years, including improved productivity, increased domestic consumption, the development of new products, and so forth. And I may add, as I said only a month ago in this House, that dairy farmers do not accept the status quo. The status quo is unacceptable, and on that basis, the