

*Oral Questions***DISARMAMENT**

VISIT OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO OTTAWA

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs advised us during his comments on Friday that Paul Nitze, the senior adviser on arms control to the President of the United States, was here and met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the same time Ambassador Karpov, the most senior Soviet official involved in arms control issues, was in Ottawa but did not meet with any government Ministers. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister why the Government did not seize this historic opportunity to meet with Mr. Karpov to discuss the forthcoming arms negotiations at Geneva.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is in Washington today meeting with Mr. Shultz at their quarterly summit. I do not know what his schedule was for Friday so I will have to take the question as notice and get back to the Hon. Member.

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that the Ministry was not aware of the presence in Ottawa of Ambassador Karpov. I hope the Minister will take steps to correct this situation, whether it is in the Minister's office or at the Department of External Affairs. The Government has missed a major opportunity to get a briefing from the senior Soviet arms negotiator. Does she agree, and will she do that?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, of course I will do that. I do not think it is necessary to assume that no one in the Department of External Affairs met with the Ambassador or was briefed. I am simply saying I am not aware of the schedule of the Minister on Friday. I will look into it and get back to him.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT—ISSUANCE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION FORMS

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he aware that approximately 12,000 Guaranteed Income Supplement pensioners in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Elmira area did not receive their GIS renewal applications? If he is aware of that, would he inform the House what steps are being taken to prevent these recipients from being cut off in April?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware a number of people serviced by

those offices did not receive the GIS renewal form which they are obligated to complete at this time of year. We have issued or are in the process of issuing new forms, and I want to tell the Member and his constituents that none of them will lose any funds for which they are eligible should there be any delay whatsoever.

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HEALTH

AIDS DISEASE—EDUCATION OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As he knows, the Government's education program regarding the deadliest virus ever known consists of one television ad which is not shown in prime time because the Government refuses to pay for it. Is it part of the Government's anti-AIDS program that the Armed Forces have no AIDS educational program which would be accessible to the people in the military?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, what the Hon. Member said with respect to that being the only program is not the case. I have already replied in the House today regarding the four ads which the CPHA prepared and which I hope telecasters will reconsider broadcasting, at least three of them. With respect to the Canadian Armed Forces, I will check into that. I appreciate his raising it with me and I will see what is being done and what more should be done. I thank him for bringing it to my attention.

● (1500)

INCIDENCE OF AIDS IN FORCES PERSONNEL

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, in finding out the details about the lack of an AIDS educational program in the military, will the Minister of National Health and Welfare also find out what the incidence of AIDS is in the Armed Forces of Canada and what provisions have been made to protect members of the Armed Forces when they are exposed to circumstances in which the possibility of infection with AIDS may be very serious and devastating?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not want the Hon. Member to be misled by my first answer to believe that there is nothing being done in the Armed Forces with regard to AIDS and protection against the illness. I believe some work has been done with regard to what the incidence of the illness is, but I do not have it right at hand. I will find out. Whatever information I have I will make available to him as I have to everyone on the AIDS question. Obviously, if more work needs to be done to bolster the program, I am open to that as well.