

### Oral Questions

ly affect the capacity to create wealth in this country. Since this is an area in which he cannot slough off responsibility, will the minister consider some new program of investment in local public activities across this country so that we can get the economy moving again?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Madam Speaker, I think it is worth reminding the hon. member that the question of public investment was very much taken into account in the budget statement itself, where an additional \$1.5 billion was provided for investment in economic development, an additional \$4 billion was provided for western development and an additional \$8 billion provided for energy projects over the four-year period for which the fiscal plan has been developed. I want to assure the hon. member that I did have concern for economic development in mind and very substantial funds have been provided in the budget for that purpose.

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### FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

#### POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF NATIVE SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. It concerns native sport and recreation. Are we to understand that the minister is considering the termination of this rather worth-while program at the end of this fiscal year, or is there any hope that when he meets with various leaders tomorrow to discuss this subject funding will continue?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour):** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question on this important subject. The hon. member will be aware that the program to finance native sport and recreation through my department was of a temporary nature. It originated in 1974 and was aimed at upgrading the opportunities for those native communities which qualified to take advantage of the regular programs of fitness and amateur sport.

The decision has been made to terminate the program. The committee, in making that decision, took into account that a similar amount of funds would continue to be spent on other projects for the benefit of our native people, and that every effort would be made by the department to find ways in which young athletes from the native population would be able to benefit from the existing and permanent programs in the department. I have agreed to meet with representatives of the non-status Indians tomorrow to discuss some concerns they have on the matter, but I certainly cannot prejudice those discussions.

**Mr. Nickerson:** Madam Speaker, I might say that is a rather disappointing answer. Under the guise of asking a supplementary question, I want to draw to the minister's attention a discussion paper dated November 5. In this document—

**An hon. Member:** Order.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member please ask the question and not quote from a document. The question period has almost expired so I think he should make his question very brief.

**Mr. Nickerson:** Madam Speaker, does the minister still agree with his statement of November 5 that a reduction in this program would result in increased social problems, and that at the present time the people involved are unable to continue these endeavours without proper financial assistance from the government?

**Mr. Regan:** No, Madam Speaker, I cannot agree with the conclusion of the hon. gentleman. The problem is that the program provided only \$1,100,000 a year for the entire country. Therefore, it was not possible for very much to be spent on actual programs but instead funds were used primarily for directors or staff who would assist. The limited size and nature of my department made it virtually impossible for us to provide in different native communities throughout the country any supervision as to how effectively that money was being spent, and a number of propositions were put to the committee as to how those services might better be provided. That is the background under which the program ceased to exist.

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### NATIONAL SECURITY

#### U.S.S.R. CRUISE SHIP "ODESSA"—INQUIRY WHETHER SECURITY CHECKS CONDUCTED

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Small Businesses or whoever is in charge of tourism. However, the first part of my question is for the Solicitor General.

The U.S.S.R. cruise ship *Odessa* conducted tours in the inland waters of British Columbia last year. It undercut Canadian wages by its arbitrary prices and so forth. Did the Solicitor General's department do any security checks on the crew of the *Odessa*, or check the ship to see whether any electronic surveillance equipment was on board so as to make sure it was a bona fide cruise ship and was not conducting clandestine activities?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member must know, I am obliged not to answer questions of that nature because the operations of the security service are not described in this place in the degree of detail he is asking.

**Mr. Clark:** That is not correct.