

Oral Questions

is aware that the Department of National Defence will, of course, continue to provide services through Aurora aircraft and the newly purchased Arcturus aircraft when they come on board.

I am sure he is also aware that in October of this year the cabinet approved additional funding for the Department of Fisheries of some \$28 million to provide for fisheries patrol surveillance and that should more than meet their needs. In fact it is substantially more than what had been provided by our department previously.

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HEALTH

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. To date approximately 2,000 Canadians have died of AIDS and another 3,300 have contracted this deadly disease. In spite of all the efforts of our best doctors and scientists we have not found a cure. The best thing we can do is help prevent it. In this regard the government on December 1 presented an excellent video on AIDS.

Does the Department intend to issue any more of these informational videos?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in addition to the video *Live* which we released on World AIDS Day, December 1, we have a further video about AIDS which we are currently negotiating with the CBC for airing on the national network.

We have already shown the video to a number of community health people and educators have been very supportive of it. We are currently preparing materials for use in classrooms to go along with the release of the video.

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THE ECONOMY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. He will be aware that during the Canada-U.S. negotiations on the free trade deal there was great pressure by the Americans on our cultural industries, including postal subsidies to keep Canadian magazines afloat. The previous minister, Flora MacDonald, proudly told this House that she had won the battle

and she was going to keep the subsidies on for at least five years.

Last week the minister cut those subsidies. On what basis was Canadian culture chosen as a cutback and was this, in fact, just a guise? In fact, it was a concession as a result of the free trade deal under the guise of a budgetary cutback.

• (1500)

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the government's decision in this area has nothing to do with the free trade agreement.

We are trying to develop a program that meets Canadian cultural objectives in the book and magazine publishing industries, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Waddell: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has spoken eloquently in the House about the five million people who are illiterate in the country. He has turned around and put a tax on books and has now removed the subsidies to Canadian magazines.

What are the priorities of the government, given in the last week that the principal victims—not the cafeterias or the dining rooms—or the real victims of the cut-backs were students and the Canadian cultural industry? Where are the priorities of the government?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Masse: Mr. Speaker, the government's priority in this respect is to ensure that our cultural industries are viable and that communication between the Canadian creative artist and the Canadian consumer is effective, and that is what is foremost in our minds.

[*English*]

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board.

The National Capital Commission's budget has been chopped by \$24 million over the next three years. This comes after a \$5 million cut in last April's budget.

By reducing the NCC's budget by 25 per cent, by forcing the NCC to sell off federal properties, by leaving the NCC competing for money in the private sector, and