

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****DELAY BY CANADIAN EMBASSY IN ROME IN NOTIFYING PARENTS OF SON'S DEATH**

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns public confidence in the communications branch of his department. Will the minister explain to the House and to the family of the late David Bagguley of Ottawa the utter lack of communication in the Department of External Affairs in relation to his tragic and unexpected death in Italy on June 30 and about which his parents were not notified until August 6?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the department has been in touch with the relatives and has expressed our profound regret at the lack of communication. I can only say to the hon. member and to the House that a very serious mistake was made. It was made during a time when there was a tremendous load upon the embassy. I should like to assure the House that I do not personally believe that this is justification for a mistake like this, and steps are being taken to see that it does not occur again.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Will an investigation be made as to the efficiency of our embassy in Italy?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The implication of what I have been saying is that we do not think that the communications were adequate. It ought to have been impossible for a member of the staff to have been informed of the death of a Canadian and for this not to have been passed on to his superiors. I can only express my profound regret that such a tragic event should have happened.

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**TAXATION****REQUEST BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR EXEMPTION FROM SALES TAX ON ANTI-POLLUTION EQUIPMENT**

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that manufacturers and producers will be granted blanket exemptions from federal sales tax on all anti-pollution equipment, can the minister give some indication that he intends to listen to the wishes of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities and grant municipalities the same exemption on anti-pollution equipment?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have received communications from them and, of course, their representations will receive consideration.

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**SPORTS****FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH RECREATION CENTRE, FLIN FLON, AND FOR INSTALLATION OF ASTROTURF, WINNIPEG**

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

It arises out of the reply I received from the minister recently concerning the request regarding the availability of federal financial assistance for a youth recreation centre at Flin Flon, Manitoba. The minister stated at that time that the department's limited funds have made it necessary to restrict assistance to national organizations and, under certain conditions, to the provinces. Would the minister tell us how he reconciles that answer with the donation of \$50,000 recently to the stadium in Hamilton for Astroturf?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is an argument rather than a question. I do not think it is in order.

**Mr. Hees:** The stadium is in the minister's riding; that is the answer.

**Mr. Simpson:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that a question asked in those terms is not a question but an argument. I have suggested before that when hon. members ask ministers to reconcile one statement with another they are debating the matter and a question should not be asked in those terms.

**Mr. Simpson:** Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question. It is a related question. Is the minister in receipt of a request for assistance for Astroturf from the Criterion Athletic Club of Winnipeg?

**Hon. John Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker.

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**AGRICULTURE****INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—LEGALITY OF PROPOSED SOLUTION TO CHICKEN AND EGG WAR**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister inform the House if the proposed solution to the chicken and egg war now being worked out by various governments is in conformity with the British North America Act which allows free and uninterrupted trade across provincial boundaries?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is obviously inviting the minister to express a legal opinion. A question in those terms is not in order.

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**YOUTH****INVESTIGATION OF USE OF GRANT BY STUDENTS AT TARBOTVALE, N.S.**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Has the minister responded, and what action has he taken, to complaints regarding nudity and other activities being subsidized by a \$6,000 grant to six so-called students to operate an establishment at Tarbotvale in the constituency of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso?