

throne speech gives a clue to the government's priorities in this field. The throne speech, not having mentioned the subject once, indicates how much interest the government truly has in fitness and amateur sport.

Then let us look at the budget which the government allows because, after all, the minister is not able to determine what our over-all budget will be for fitness and amateur sport. If we look at the current fiscal year 1977-78, we find that the budget for fitness and amateur sport comes very close to \$27 million. That sounds like quite a bit to most of us, but when you put it in the context of a budget for health care of about \$7 billion in the total budget of the country of over \$40 billion, it looks to be rather small. Perhaps we might analyse how small it really is.

The concept of fitness and amateur sport first became a valid concept in Canada back in 1961 when the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act was passed. At that time embodied in the act was the statement that the government would be allowed to spend up to \$5 million a year on anything to do with promotion and assistance of fitness and amateur sport. Let us look at what the gross national product was at the time. In 1961 the gross national product was \$39 billion. Now in 1977 it is about \$190 billion, almost \$200 billion. So we see that the GNP has gone up five-fold. The expenditure on physical fitness and amateur sport this year was \$27 million, just a little bit more than five times what was allowable in 1961.

The minister told us the other day in the House that we will be spending about \$30 million or \$31 million this coming year on fitness and amateur sport, and she may well be right. Let us assume that we spend, say, \$31 million on fitness and amateur sport. If one works that out over a 17 year period from 1961 when the act was passed, to give you an idea of how much concern the government has for fitness and amateur sport, the real increase in dollar terms comes to about 1.5 cents to 2 cents per Canadian per year. So if the government chose to increase its contribution to fitness and amateur sport on a yearly basis, taking inflation into account, the actual increase in dollar value is 1.5 cents per person, per year, since 1961. That gives you an idea of the priority which the government gives to fitness and amateur sport.

If we assume the minister is spending this year \$27 million on fitness and amateur sport and we assume that \$10 million of that will go for fitness out of the \$27 million—after all, fitness is pretty basic to sports and one has to look at that priority too—which priority comes first, fitness or amateur sport? Let us assume fitness is worth \$10 million a year. This means that for every dollar the minister spends on fitness, the government spends \$700 on health care. What does that tell us about the concern of the government for fitness? Or let us take the total expenditure on fitness and amateur sport of \$27 million to \$30 million. If you multiply it by three you find that they spend \$3 on fitness and about \$700 on total health care. That shows you the value which the government places on fitness and amateur sport.

What about the minister's priorities within her own department? I asked her a question this morning in the House,

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having looked at the act which sets up her department. Section 13 of the act states that the minister shall, within three months of the end of the current fiscal year, present to parliament an annual report on the expenditures, activities and commitments of her department. To the best of my knowledge there has been no such report as yet. It should have been received by parliament at the end of June this year. We are almost at the end of October and we have not yet seen that report.

The irony of the whole thing is: where are the priorities? It seems to me that here we have the minister presenting to us this green paper, which is great, because we like to know what the government's plans are for the future, but surely she has an obligation to present to us what has transpired in the last year, and this she has completely failed to do.

Let us go on now to the objectives of the minister's department. It is always interesting to take a look at the estimates in the great Blue Book we get each year. If you look up the estimates under the Department of National Health and Welfare for the program on fitness and amateur sport, we see written out in plain print the objective of her department, which is to raise the fitness level of Canadians and to improve their participation in physical recreation and amateur sport. That is subdivided into sub-objectives, which are, to increase appreciation for and understanding of fitness, physical recreation and amateur sport—note the order—to improve the Canadian delivery systems of fitness, physical recreation and amateur sport.

There is no doubt in my mind that if you read the official objectives of her department, the emphasis is laid on fitness. I submit that the priorities of the minister do not seem to show that. She has come before us with a working document, a green paper, on sport only, with a very passing reference to fitness. I do not think it takes somebody with much more than elementary education to realize that if you are going to be any good in a sports program, you have to have some fitness. The minister herself has admitted to us in her speech made earlier this week that the big problem with the health of Canadians is that we spend 40 per cent of our dollars on lifestyles that do not lead to fitness. Obviously, in order to get excellence in sport we will have to do something to improve the general fitness of the nation. What can we do?

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Over the last two years the minister's first priority has been to produce a working document on sport. The minister told us in a passing reference earlier this week that we are going to get something on fitness later on. But what are the minister's priorities? They seem to be all mixed up.

The minister said in her speech the other day, "The commitment of this government to sport access is complete". I take that to mean that the minister wants all Canadians to have access to sport. Indeed, the minister says that somewhere in the green paper. We cannot fault her for that. It is an admirable desire on her part. However, it is interesting to see the stress laid on anything but availability of sport to the average Canadian in the green paper.