

*Statements by Ministers*

eradicating the use of drugs in sport, both domestically and internationally. However, we cannot simply be seen as supporting the international fight against drug use while not taking enough productive steps to eliminate drug use in amateur sport in Canada. Sadly, however, this was indeed the case over the last few years.

Canada should be commended for what has been accomplished at the international level. But our efforts at home have not been as successful. I am concerned by the fact that the Government is eager to display its commitment to eliminating drug use in amateur sport but is not as eager to share in the responsibility for what is going on in our own backyard.

The shock and disbelief that many Canadians felt over what occurred in Seoul has been eclipsed by what we are witnessing from the Dubin inquiry. The inquiry has so far uncovered considerable evidence of the use of drugs and the extent of the problem in Canadian amateur sport. This problem cannot be related to the actions of one single athlete in only one specific sport. The inquiry has shown that a number of athletes and coaches have been involved in the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs and in perfecting measures to escape detection.

Given the revelations of the Dubin inquiry to date, I certainly would like to know, as I believe many Canadians would, how the present Minister for Fitness and Amateur Sport and his predecessor did not know what was going on in our amateur sport system. I find it truly amazing that they were giving funding to a number of our A-card athletes and others who, as their testimony has shown, were using illegal drugs and were involved in an extensive drug program for a number of years. Given the part played by the Government in assisting amateur sport in Canada, it could have been more effective in recognizing and preventing what was occurring.

I do, however, want to state that the majority of Canada's amateur athletes, coaches and officials must not be painted with the same brush. We all know that they contribute a considerable amount of time and honest effort to amateur sport here in Canada and in competitions abroad.

I hope to comment further on the Dubin inquiry after its conclusion and when its recommendations have been released. I also sincerely hope that the response of the Minister to the inquiry's recommendations will be dealt

with firmly and expeditiously by the Government in a prudent and satisfactory manner.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the House of my support for Canada's international efforts to obtain world-wide approval of the anti-doping charter. I would also like to remind the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport of my question to him on April 14, when I asked the Minister if he would endeavour to have Canada participate in the joint U.S.-Soviet agreement that allows these countries to randomly test each other's athletes for illegal performance enhancing drugs. The U.S. Olympic Committee said they expected other countries to join in this program. I was happy to learn that on June 3, the USOC ratified the structure of this agreement. Canada's decision to join now would be a further indication to the sports world of our commitment to end drug use in amateur sport.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand in the place of our critic for sports, the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. Brewin), who is unable to be here. In speaking on behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, I want to reaffirm our support for the work of the Dubin inquiry and for all efforts to rid sports, indeed all aspects of Canadian life, from the scourge of illegal drugs.

We share the Minister's enthusiasm for the actions of the European sports ministers in endorsing the International Olympic Anti-doping Charter.

There is still a long way to go, as I am sure the Minister recognizes. We await with interest the completion of the Dubin inquiry and its conclusions. We caution all Canadians, indeed the international sports community, from drawing too many conclusions before all the evidence is in.

We look to the Dubin inquiry to examine the role of athletic organizations at home and abroad in inducing athletes to use banned substances, particularly in respect of setting qualifying standards for funding of promising athletes. One might wonder about what seems to have been a long-standing complicity of ignorance about the use of drugs in athletics in Canada that many of us who are involved in sports like track and field knew would be a problem.

We want to look at the "win at all cost" philosophy that seems to have overcome the ideals of sport. We look to Mr. Justice Dubin to shed light on the distinction between dangerous drugs and performance enhancing drugs, because the treatment accorded to athletes in