

As to the way the amount was arrived at, we calculated that the Canadian Olympic Association would have raised \$1.2 million from private sources had the athletes been able to attend the Olympics, and the government, through this department, decided to compensate them for that. I might point out that in view of the fact the hon. member represents a farming community, this coincided with the \$81 million that we provided to the farmers who suffered losses incurred by the situation in Afghanistan.

Mr. Murta: Madam Speaker, I hope the Canadian Olympic Association is more satisfied with the \$1.2 million than the farmers are with the \$81 million, because in effect the farmers are being shortchanged by some \$20 million in terms of the amount of money they should have received.

Mr. Pepin: You said before that \$72 million would be good enough.

DATE OF PAYMENT

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the parliamentary secretary. Can he indicate when that money will be handed over to the Olympic committee? Could the parliamentary secretary also tell us what the \$1.2 million will be used for?

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, we would hope that members of the Canadian Olympic Association will disburse this money to the athletes as they see fit, but it will surely go to the training of many of our athletes who are preparing now for the next Olympic Games. This money will be put into their hands in a matter of days.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO COVER INTERPROVINCIAL WATERWAYS

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. When the Canada Water Act was passed in the early 1970s it was with the understanding that the act would cover environmental problems in the Ottawa River basin. But such measures have never materialized. The minister informed me recently that no such federal legislative authority gives his department jurisdiction over these interprovincial waterways.

Because of the great importance of the Ottawa River basin to both eastern Ontario and western Quebec, is it the intention of the Minister of the Environment to bring in legislation that will provide jurisdictional authority to enable the federal government to address environmental matters with relation to important interprovincial waterways such as the Ottawa River?

Oral Questions

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, we do have legislation under review and we are considering legislative initiatives to strengthen and clarify the mandate of the Department of the Environment. I would be happy to look at the very interesting suggestion which the hon. member has made as we undertake that review.

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FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

DECISION RESPECTING GRANT TO CANADIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker, my question is for the parliamentary secretary to the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. Can he advise the House who made the decision on the \$1.2 million which is to be handed over to the Canadian Olympic Association?

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that we did not have all the money we would have had had we had Loto Canada at our disposal—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: Are you promoting gambling?

Mr. Parent: —the decision to give the \$1.2 million to the Canadian Olympic Association was made by the minister in consultation with other members of the cabinet and his other advisers.

USE TO BE MADE OF GRANT

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker, I am surprised, and I say through you to the parliamentary secretary, and to the Prime Minister if he is listening, that here is a perfect example of giving \$1.2 million to 12 or 14 people who will have cocktail parties across the country, and yet a mass participation, such as the Western Canada Games which is requesting \$166,000, has been refused by this particular cabinet.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I say to the hon. member that members of the Canadian Olympic Association are held in higher esteem by this side of the House than by either the hon. member or his party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Parent: I would say that members of the Canadian Olympic Association have, through the years, served this country, and the athletes of Canada well, and I am sure they