

*Oral Questions***SPORTS****GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES—FUNDING OF NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS**

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski:—may I pre-empt my question by thanking everyone in the chamber who was so kind in sending so many wonderful letters while I was incapacitated in the hospital. I have lost my gall bladder, but I have not lost my gall.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: I would like to direct my question to the minister in charge of sport. The Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union—CIAU—received grants totalling \$456,000 for its 1978-79 athletic year. These grants were provided to assist the universities in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Canada West Universities Athletic Association, and the Great Plains Athletic Conference, with their intercollegiate sport travel costs.

With the great amount of moneys incremental to the minister's budget through the lottery income, and in view of the fact that universities are planning scholarships and internship programs to keep our athletes in Canada, can the universities expect the \$456,000 plus in the coming year?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. member, I want to say that my first reaction must be of gratitude for the work that he did in the department prior to the time that I had the responsibility to carry on. I think he did a splendid job in the time that he was minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: I regret that his illness has prevented me from paying that tribute to him in the House prior to now. In relation to the question that he asked, I must say to him that we are concerned about the funding as a result of the unwise decision of the previous government to divest the federal government of the lotteries, but I certainly think that the purpose of support of the universities, the CIAU, is a laudable cause. I expect to speak at their annual meeting in June, in Halifax. I will endeavour to have an answer for the hon. gentleman in relation to the continuation of that support prior to that date.

Mr. Paproski: In the past several years, Fitness and Amateur Sport has contributed significant sums toward the development of sport and recreation leadership among native peoples. Approximately 35 native organizations throughout Canada receive funding—approximately \$1.2 million per annum—designed to enhance sport and recreational opportunity. In view of the fact that the minister will now be receiving, again I say, moneys from lotteries, will the Indian Brotherhood be able to receive the \$1.2 million per annum.

Mr. Regan: Madam Speaker, in relation to the question of support for native sports, I met with the Indian Brotherhood representatives during their recent visit to Ottawa to discuss the manner in which the support of their athletic and recreational undertakings can be continued or improved. I have further meetings scheduled in that regard. When the level of the support is definitively determined, I will be very happy to report that to the hon. member. May I merely say at this time that I am certainly supportive of that particular objective.

Mr. Jarvis: Especially if they have their conference in Halifax; that will help.

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DISASTERS**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTER AREAS**

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance, who I believe is responsible for Emergency Planning Canada. Last week, the minister's colleague, the hon. member for Timiskaming, presented a motion under Standing Order 43 which was similar to one presented by my colleague, the hon. member for Erie, on the matter of the availability of funds for disaster areas.

I wish to ask the minister whether he is sympathetic with the problems related to funding in disaster areas, and whether he would consider convening a meeting of his counterparts to take a second look at the present federal-provincial agreement on this matter.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, there is a formula in existence at present by which the federal government makes available assistance to provinces which are unable to bear the burden of a disaster. In light of the hon. member's representations, I will be pleased to take a look at the matter.

Mr. Halliday: I appreciate the minister's sympathetic approach to this. May I ask a supplementary? Does the minister condone the raising of revenues by the federal tax on building materials at the expense of those who have suffered immeasurable loss and grief as a result of natural disasters?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I am sure that in certain cases the application of the tax system may have unfortunate effects such as the one he described, but there is not to my knowledge within that system at present a way by which these particular difficulties could be overcome.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**USE OF WEEKLY AND ETHNIC PRESS**

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked by the hon. member for Perth