

As members of the International Association of Airborne Veterans' established Veterans Parachute Regiment, these veterans conducted a mass paratroop into the nation's capital and surrounding area. This was an exciting event to witness.

I am sure that veterans as well as all Canadians were touched by this spectacular tribute to the allied invasion of Normandy.

This paratroop operation was organized by Captain Glen Blumberg, a constituent of Markham. He is the director of the Canadian chapter of the International Association of Airborne Veterans.

Through his efforts, parachutists from the three principal nations involved in the invasion, namely Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, participated in the paratroop. Additionally, representatives from our other second world war allies also participated in this event.

On behalf of all my colleagues in Parliament, I congratulate Captain Blumberg, the veteran—

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

SOCIAL PROGRAM REFORM

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, after cancelling last April's scheduled federal-provincial conference of income security ministers, the Minister of Human Resources Development has also postponed the tabling of his action plan on social program reform which was originally scheduled for late April. With the House slated to rise for the summer in about 15 days, the government has dug in its heels in the fact of the provinces' opposition and has yet to unveil its plans for social program reform.

Can the Deputy Prime Minister indicate to us whether the government intends to make its action plan on social program reform public before the adjournment of the House, or whether it is preparing instead to release it after the House rises, so as to avoid debating the matter here in the House?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the work of the human resources minister is proceeding very, very well. This week in fact, he met in Europe with representatives of other countries that are reviewing their social systems and we expect that he will be releasing his report and action plan shortly.

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, that is quite a revelation! The minister has not even succeeded in getting together with his provincial counterparts in

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Canada, and now we learn that he is meeting with European ministers. Quite a revelation indeed!

Are we to understand that because of the provinces' opposition to the federal project, no new date has been set for the federal-provincial ministers' conference on social program reform originally scheduled for last April?

• (1420)

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Leader of the Opposition is not trying to make the House believe that the Minister of Human Resources Development should not speak with his OECD counterparts.

I realize that the Leader of the Opposition has other plans in mind for his country. I also know that the minister received a much warmer welcome in Europe that did the Leader of the Opposition several weeks ago.

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians and all taxpayers will, I am sure, be delighted to hear that the minister is in Europe to meet with his European counterparts. However, it is not in Europe that the plan will be drawn up and it is not in Europe that the minister will convince Canada's provincial premiers that the plan is acceptable. That work must be done here.

Mr. Speaker, will the Deputy Prime Minister admit that Ottawa and the provinces have reached an impasse on the question of social program reform, given that in such fields as health, the provinces refuse to bear the burden for the federal government's financial decision to off-load its deficit onto their shoulders, while at the same time, the federal government wants to force the provinces to comply with national standards?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this is another unfortunate example of the Leader of the Opposition's policy of always operating according to a double standard. He sees nothing illogical in the fact that two weeks ago, he went to Paris to discuss Quebec's separation. It is completely logical, on the other hand, that the Minister of Human Resources Development is in Europe to discuss social reform. Furthermore, we have already stated that the action plan will be released to the Canadian public shortly.

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EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, we learned from a report on French CBC TV that two children had life-threatening reactions to an experimental drug, ALG, that was approved by Health Canada and administered to them at Sainte-Justine Hospital. However, this experimental drug was never approved or authorized for export by the U.S. authorities. This