

funding it advances so grudgingly will not be adequate to the need.

In Thunder Bay the city provides 165 subsidized spaces in its excellent municipal child care centres, but at least 320 children are left out in the cold or in whatever arrangements their desperate parents are able to make.

Canadian children need child care arrangements and a national strategy that meets all the needs with the type of high quality care that they deserve.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, the free trade agreement will not affect senior citizens' pensions, medicare, or water, and the agreement can be cancelled by Canada at any time on six months' notice. You know that, Mr. Speaker, I know that, and Liberal Senator van Roggen knows it too. That's why he publicly supports the free trade agreement. Even our Canadian dollar knows it because its value drops every time the Opposition threatens to rip up the agreement.

The Opposition has a duty to criticize and spread fear, if possible, about the free trade agreement and everything else the Government does regardless of the merit of its argument. However, the press and media have a duty not to spread fear but rather to report the free trade agreement and all news in a fair and balanced manner. I hope that they will bear that in mind.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for International Trade. Yesterday the American President sent the final form of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement to the U.S. Congress for ratification. With that particular piece of legislation the United States has gained substantial new powers against Canadian exports. Included within the Bill is a brand new set of procedures to harass Canadian exports. The Government finds itself with a much tougher set of U.S. trade laws now than when it began the negotiations two and a half years ago.

Considering that Canadian exports will now face an additional form of scrutiny and harassment that no other

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country will face, how can the Government put the Canadian people at such a disadvantage? Would the Minister not agree that it is important now to have an election to allow people to decide, before this country agrees to additional new U.S. trade laws that will provide substantial new protectionism against Canada?

• (1420)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, that sounds rather peculiar coming from a member of the Liberal caucus. He wants the people to decide. I thought the Senate is to decide, the unelected Senate.

Yesterday the President of the United States delivered to an elected Senate the proposed U.S. legislation. It is not a Senate made up of appointees, 15 of whom were appointed in the last few weeks of the mouldering term of former Prime Minister Trudeau and the few weeks term of then Prime Minister Turner. That is the difference between the two systems.

I notice that Manitoba Liberal Leader Sharon Carstairs says she has some concerns about these tactics. She has reservations about the constitutionality of them. There is some danger of a backlash. She thinks it is an incredible gamble that could be very badly misinterpreted nation-wide. She is exactly right.

With respect to the legislation introduced yesterday, I am glad to report that several of the offensive provisions of the draft legislation have been removed, including—

Ms. Copps: Get the hook!

Mr. Crosbie: Apparently the hon. lady is not interested in listening to what is in the legislation. They are not interested in listening here. They do not want Senators to examine and listen to what is in the legislation. Why would they be concerned about the U.S. legislation?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, it is very simple. If the Minister is concerned about democratic choice, then why don't you put it to the ultimate test, which is an election? Put it before the people of Canada. That is where the real choice lies.

Mr. Speaker: I know the Hon. Member will want to address the Hon. Minister through the Chair. If we can keep our minds on the rules we will get along just fine.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to address the Minister in kind by simply saying that if he wants an election, call it today, we are ready to go. Don't worry about the Senate.

TERMS OF U.S. LEGISLATION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, the U.S. President and his administration, and now Congress, are bringing in legislation to implement the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. That legislation will include further powers of scrutiny, further powers of monitoring,