

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this matter has been dealt with extensively on the floor of this House in the debate that we had yesterday.

The Solicitor General has indicated that there is an investigation under way. That investigation is continuing.

## REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, since yesterday information was given by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about the state of the investigation of the RCMP, will the Minister confirm, in fact, the state of sloppiness that existed around security in the preparation of his Budget? On the basis of that sloppy security will he tell us whether he will recognize his responsibility for it and resign?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I am advised by the Acting Commissioner of the RCMP that all resources necessary to follow all leads on this case have been deployed.

[Translation]

Investigations are being conducted, Mr. Speaker, and it is entirely inappropriate to comment on them in this House.

\* \* \*

• (1150)

[English]

## CHILD CARE

## EFFECTS OF BUDGET ON CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. In 1984 he promised child care, and he did not deliver. In the women's debate he promised child care, and he did not deliver. In 1988 he promised child care, and he did not deliver. In the Speech from the Throne he promised child care, and again he did not deliver.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame.

**Ms. Langan:** Why has this Government broken its promise and abandoned its commitment to Canadian families and to the two million children in Canada who desperately need child care?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, there is no abandonment of the commitment of

this Government to child care. We introduced a child care policy last year. Elements of that child care policy have been implemented, particularly the tax measures that are directed to low-income families. That is \$2.3 billion. There is another element of that, which is a research fund to consider different ways of developing further child care policies.

The Hon. Member is also referring to the increase in the number of child care spaces that were part of the policy last year. We have indicated that because of the financial pressures that the Government is under, and particularly the need to control the financial debt, that must be deferred for the time being, but we are committed to introducing this legislation within this mandate.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Hon. Minister of Finance. The Minister of National Health and Welfare has had his precious submarines sunk, and I think now the Minister of Finance is torpedoing child care in this country. Is it not a fact that with the tax breaks in this Budget the only child care commitment is to those who can afford it in this country, and those children whose families cannot afford it are left on their own to fend for themselves?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I could not hear the whole of the question over the din coming from her colleagues, but I believe that she was talking about tax breaks in this Budget. There are no tax breaks in this Budget. I know the Hon. Member has not been in the House for a long period of time, but if she would look back over the past four and one-half years, we have acted to reduce a broad range of tax breaks and tax loopholes on many occasions, both within Budgets and outside of Budgets, that have benefited people in higher income brackets, corporations. In this Budget, in fact, we have introduced a large corporations tax. We have increased the surtax specifically for those people who are earning over \$70,000.

There is a good balance in this Budget in trying to address a very serious problem which, if we do not address, will result in programs that we will not be able to maintain. That is the essence of what we are trying to do in this Budget.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!