

Oral Questions

One of these recommendations was for a national child care program, but this government quickly dropped its inadequate proposal after the last election.

When will this government introduce a national child care program which addresses the shortcomings that child care experts pointed out in their last proposal? Will it contain national standards with no capping of funds? Will it create the critically needed spaces for Canada's children?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to indicate to the hon. member that the actual date the report of the royal commission on the Status of Women was made public was December 7. That in fact will be the day we will be honouring all those who were involved in the development of that report.

As I am sure the hon. member is aware, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has announced that this government will be moving forward with a national child care strategy. We have already implemented a number of measures through the tax system to assist women in the care of their children. We will be moving forward with other initiatives to help in other ways to achieve that objective.

Ms. Copps: Women and men; it is not just women.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, we have seen the government's commitment to child care with the capping of CAP, which is the mechanism right now for funding child care spaces.

How can the Prime Minister go to New York and defend this government's record on child care services? One in six Canadian children live in poverty. Over half of our native children live in poverty. Some 40 per cent of food bank users are children. An estimated two million children in this country are in desperate need of child care.

When will this program be forthcoming? Will it meet the needs of Canada's children?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the member once again that this government has already committed \$2.3 billion over a seven-year period through the tax system to child

care. That is a significant amount of money that we are putting forward.

Yes, indeed, we are looking at additional assistance, but I do not think the hon. member should expect that the federal government alone or the provincial governments alone can possibly meet the needs of child care. It is going to require partnerships with employers, with communities, with all levels of government, and with parents. All of us have to work together to meet the needs of the children and our families in this country.

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• (1150)

FINANCE

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. It concerns the government's proposals for financial reform which he released yesterday.

Yesterday the minister only tabled the trust and loan legislation. This means that Canadians are getting an incomplete picture of the government's policy because he failed to table the Bank Act and legislation concerning insurance and credit unions.

When can we expect this missing legislation? Why does the government continue to keep the financial industry in the dark?

Hon. Gilles Loiseleur (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will have noticed that together with this first package of legislation I have tabled a complete overview of the principles and the methods that will guide us for the rest of the institutions.

She will also appreciate that we are dealing here with a very complex sector. Some areas of financial institutions have not been touched. They are very central to our economy and have not been touched in certain cases for 70 years.

By proceeding as we have with one major bill and allowing this House to participate in discussions around it—we have been consulting for five years—I think we have a very good package. We want to proceed with this particular package which links with the others and in due course listen carefully to what the members of this House will have to say and come forward immediately