

*Canada Child Care Act*

● (2100)

I would like to ask a broader question about credibility. Why should we believe Liberals when they speak about the types of programs that they would implement. I remember hearing from the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner), talking about democratizing the Liberal Party. Credibility! Is this the same Party that said to a potential Liberal candidate in the riding of St. Laurent in Montreal, who had signed up 1,400 members, that he could not run. "We will not let you run", Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** On a point of order the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata).

**Mr. Nunziata:** I would simply request, Mr. Speaker, that you enforce the rule of relevancy with respect to the Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** In my 20 years here I have never seen anything that was relevant. The Hon. Minister of State on a point of order.

**Mr. Charest:** I was just going to point out that if we were to listen to the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) apply the rule of relevancy, neither he nor the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) could ever talk.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I believe the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) has finished. I will give him another 30 seconds.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I hope that it is not taken off my time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I would not dare.

**Mr. Robinson:** I will conclude my remarks, but I would ask the Hon. Member to explain how it is that there are certain ridings in Quebec that are reserved for the special stars. Why is it that we should believe for one minute this Party when it talks about child care, but when it talks about democracy it is obviously misleading the people of Canada?

**Mr. Rossi:** Quebecers don't want the NDP.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) has a point of order.

**Ms. Copps:** I could be totally irrelevant and point out how the NDP Members must be licking their wounds after the provincial leader in Quebec garnered a total of 2 per cent of the popular vote in a recent by-election, but I will not. First, I would only like to point out that the NDP Members do not even have nominating conventions in Quebec; they appoint their so-called representatives. Second, we are supposed to be discussing child care.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I will defer the Hon. Member's question and comment and let the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) answer, and then I will come back.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I can well understand members of the NDP not wanting to talk about child care and talking about everything else. When it comes to credibility, they are the experts in non-credibility. They have lost absolutely any confidence that any Canadian may have had in them, and I could go back to NATO, to the banks and the nationalizing of banks, or I could talk about serious problems that they have. However, since the debate is on Bill C-144 and day care, I would like to take the occasion to tell the Member, who has been here since 1979, that he has certainly heard of the CAP program which was brought in by a good Liberal Government. It gave 50 per cent contributions to Canadians in helping them to have day care. I remember the then Minister of Health bringing in a tax credit for children, which was a Liberal initiative. There were many good fiscal measures put forward which probably the Member missed because, being an NDP Member, he never sees the realities. He lives somewhere in the beyond, in the dream world of the arm chair socialists, as we call them in my riding.

To answer the question of the Hon. Member, I would recommend that he read the report on child care, that he read the minority report of the Liberal Member of that committee, the Hon. Member for Outremont (Mrs. P  pin). It is entitled: *Choices for Children Now and in the Future*. It is a very good minority report. If the Hon. Member reads the report he will have the answers to all of his questions.

**Mr. Jepson:** I have a point of clarification. Did I hear the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) state that he and his Party were for universal day care? If he said that, I would like to know what he anticipates the cost per annum would be for universal day care, and what that would relate to on an individual taxpayer basis.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I would like to point out to the Member that it is a good question. What I am talking about is universal accessibility. That means that Canadians wherever they live in this country should have universal access to day care. I did not talk about a universal program, I said universality of access.

**Ms. Mitchell:** First, I think I should point out to my Liberal friend that my understanding is that the Canada Assistance Plan was in force since 1966.

**Ms. Copps:** Who brought it in?

**Ms. Mitchell:** The Hon. Member should learn about the inadequacy of some of the child care programs, at least in my experience, under that program. However, this Bill is worse than what we would have under the Canada Assistance Plan. The growth rate for new spaces would be higher under the Canada Assistance Plan than under this new Bill.

In his remarks the Hon. Member referred to standards. We preferred the term "objectives" from a national point of view. I