

Mr. Speaker: I think that my admonition of a few minutes ago has to apply to both sides. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, in his maiden speech on a Bill the Prime Minister said, and I quote, "The Child Care Act is about protecting children". The Prime Minister should know that there is absolutely nothing in this Act that protects children, because there are no national standards and no national objectives. I would like to ask who wrote this speech and why does the Prime Minister insist on being a phoney before the women of Canada.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's intervention in the debate on child care was timely. He put forward the views of the Government on child care. He put forward a national strategy on child care. He talked about the 200,000 new spaces for the children of Canada. He talked about the tax breaks for parents, which obviously the Liberals and the NDP are against.

An Hon. Member: He talked about everything.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): He also put on the record the Government's advances on family violence. He put on the record what the Government had done about child sexual abuse. He put on the record the drug strategy. Do you remember when the Liberals said that there was no problem? He put on the record the issue of drinking and driving, especially for teens. He put on the record the policies—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the record speaks for itself, and the women of Canada—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Ms. Copps: The women of Canada know a phoney—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member.

Ms. Copps: It was a phoney statement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Sit down!

Mr. Speaker: I will ask the Hon. Member to put her question.

Ms. Copps: My question is this. Can the Minister or any Member on the government side show me a single section of

Oral Questions

the Act which deals with protecting children? It is not there. That is a national responsibility, and I would like to ask the Minister why the national Government refuses to protect children in the national Child Care Act?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the national Child Care Act does protect children. It provides 200,000 spaces. It doubles the number of spaces. The Liberals spent, at best, \$40 million to \$50 million a year on child care. They did not protect children. They did not care. They are great on rhetoric, but they do not care.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I might comment that both the question and the answer were probably anticipated debate, but I was very generous with both the Minister and the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member for Burnaby. These will be the last two questions.

* * *

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

LIBERAL NOMINATION IN SAINT-LAURENT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council, who is responsible for the operations of Elections Canada. It concerns the ruthless and dictatorial attempts by the Liberal Party of Canada to deny a Mr. William Dery an opportunity to be nominated as a Liberal candidate in the riding of Saint-Laurent, Quebec, where he lives. Will the President of the Privy Council look into whether or not the statement by the Member for Laval-des-Rapides, saying "he will not get any nomination in this particular riding I will assure you" could in any way be in breach of the—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: The NDP do not even have conventions. Pope Broadbent anoints his NDP candidates.

Mr. Speaker: I know that that question may or may not be welcomed by some Members in the Chamber, but I think that I have to apply the procedural stricture, that unless the Hon. Member can show that the question has something to do with the administration of Government, it is out of order. I will give the Hon. Member another chance.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I know that the President of the Privy Council is concerned that elections be conducted in a democratic manner. I want to ask him whether in fact he is prepared to look into this question and determine whether this attempt to muzzle and deny access to the electoral process is in