

do? We are helping the people on the North Shore, and later we will help the people in the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean area.

INQUIRY WHY PRIME MINISTER CHOSE HIS RIDING AS
LOCATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, everybody in Quebec knows full well that the Prime Minister made a gift to his riding when at the same time . . . Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Can he tell the people of Quebec why he chose his own riding when there are so many others where the unemployment rate is much too high? Why?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, when any riding experiences high unemployment and economic hardships, why should we forget it, because it happens to be the riding of the Prime Minister? I am asking the question to Members of the Opposition.

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[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

PENALTIES CHARGED ON EARLY MORTGAGE PAYBACKS

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. What steps are being taken to change the policy of the Farm Credit Corporation with regard to penalties on early mortgage pay-backs?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question and his ongoing interest in the financial difficulties which Canadian farmers face. It is our assessment that indeed chartered banks continue to charge a penalty for early payment. The Farm Credit Corporation does have a policy, however, which will eliminate such a penalty under certain circumstances. If the Hon. Member wishes to bring specific cases to my attention I would be happy to inquire whether the cases he has in mind would qualify.

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[Translation]

DAY CARE

PROVISION OF SERVICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the status of women. In her absence, I direct it to the Prime Minister. During the election campaign two years ago the Conservative Party singled out day-care services as a priority. The Speech from the Throne makes reference to launching discussions between the Governments of the various provinces, the private sector and the unions. Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister tell us

Oral Questions

when these endless discussions will stop and when his Government will take action concerning day-care services? What kind of concrete action does he intend to take and when?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Government has turned to concrete action.

Mr. Broadbent: Just turned to concrete.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): During the election campaign the Prime Minister made two commitments on child care. One was a task force, not on whether but on how to best implement it. The Hon. Member has been sitting on this task force. We expect that report at approximately the end of November.

Second, in this Throne Speech the Prime Minister has clearly indicated that he is now moving from that commitment to the next commitment of implementation. The Hon. Member surely recognizes that there are a number of partners in the relationship for the provision of child care. We hope she will support the Prime Minister and the Government on the actions that have been taken.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER NEW FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO DAY-
CARE

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to know—if such services are indeed a priority and we are about to enter the second phase—whether the Government is prepared to guarantee that new funds will be set aside for day-care services in the next Budget instead of simply redistributing the money already earmarked for social programs. Are you prepared to allocate new funds to day-care services?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will not relate to the next Budget, that is not my mandate. I will say, as I said in my speech earlier today, that possibly the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party did not expect this strong positive action to come so soon. It is coming. The Hon. Member should start supporting the very things to which she gave lip service and to which the Prime Minister is giving action.

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SHIPBUILDING

CONSTRUCTION OF POLAR 8 ICEBREAKER

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. How soon does the Minister expect to award the contract for construction of a Polar 8 ice-breaker which his predecessor was hoping to announce last spring?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I am sure all Members of the House know, the