

population because the number one problem, as my colleague the Member for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin) has said, is the number of daycare spaces, and the fact that they need to be increased.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people will remember this Conservative Government. Today I had the honour and the privilege of having lunch with Mrs. Solange Denis, the woman who buttonholed our very own Charlie Brown, and rest assured that she will not be voting Conservative.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

BENEFITS OF EMERGENCY MEASURES ACT

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism): Mr. Speaker, allow me to share with you the content of a telegram I received yesterday from a constituent, following the passage of Bill C-77. It reads as follows:

"I write to you as leader and spokesperson for the Italian-Canadian businessmen of Québec and as a native citizen of Canada, incarcerated and interned at Camp Petawawa, Ontario, in 1940, in the name of hundreds of family members of Italian origin and speaking also for those from the City of Toronto who were arrested and interned in the middle of the night, without arrest warrants, detained without charges being laid against them, and denied the right to consult a lawyer, and were then incarcerated for four years like common criminals and kept apart from their families. In the light of these facts, please congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, and his Minister, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, and the Government for having brought in and passed Bill C-77.

This is a very positive day for Canadians whatever their origin or religion. The new law will prevent the repetition of events such as the ones that occurred in Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and other cities in Canada during the Second World War when Italians, Germans, and Japanese Canadians were interned because of their ethnic origin.

Your Government will by this gesture go down in the history of our country as an honourable defender of the rights and the respect due to individuals, as opposed to the Liberal Government of 1940 that claimed to be the protector of minorities and ethnic groups."

I will conclude by saying this: the greatest honesty will lead to the greatest safety.

Signed: A wounded Canadian, Antonio Capobianco.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

DAY CARE

NUMBER OF SPACES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. This Minister's statement yesterday in the House is a fraud, misrepresentation and completely unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, the more one studies the statement, the closer one looks at it, the more one finds it is trickery.

With the dishonest statement he made yesterday, the Minister gave Canadian families the illusion that he was adding more day care spaces, when in fact . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order! I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member, but such a comment is unparliamentary and I would ask the Hon. Member to withdraw the word "dishonest."

Mrs. Pépin: I withdraw the word "dishonest."

What I mean is that he was giving families the illusion that he was adding day care spaces, when in fact he has decreased the number of spaces promised in 1987.

What the Minister announced in December was mediocre. What he announced yesterday is worse. Why?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, obviously not associating myself with any of the comments the Hon. Member makes, the Hon. Member must realize that the amount of money the Government of Canada put forward in December was based on the cost of a day care space at that time and the target of 200,000 spaces.

I was very clear in the announcement I made yesterday. I was not trying to create an illusion of anything other than the 200,000 space target. I said that the costs of spaces, our negotiations with the provinces, and the plans that had been submitted had come to a certain amount of money about which I have been very public. After some refinement and critical analysis of those plans the announcement was made of an additional \$1 billion to be put into the child care package.

I find it interesting that the Member was wrong in her analysis yesterday and is wrong in her analysis today. She is leaving the impression that there were to be more than the 200,000 spaces created. That is not what I said and that is not what the statement says. She should go back to the drawing board, not only to read what I said but to understand exactly what was said.

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, I did go back. I do not think that with \$102 per child per year we can have more spaces.