

*Business of the House*

There is a process before the courts that must take place with respect to this matter before it reaches the Attorney General of Canada. Accordingly, I have no comment with respect to this matter except to assure the hon. gentleman that, when the matter is referred to me, I will give the matter the appropriate attention.

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● (1500)

**CHILD CARE**

## GOVERNMENT PLAN

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The federal Government has told us time and time again that child care was to be a priority on its agenda. We are still waiting for the tabling of the legislation. The Government has explained its last delay by an admission that there is not enough money to meet provincial needs. The federal Government was made aware of the specifics of the Ontario plan last December, not March or May, December 1987.

If the Mulroney Government—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**Mrs. Pépin:** —has made child care a priority, why is it delaying, postponing, and contemplating reworking the plan? Why is it failing to address this important issue?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Government is not contemplating shelving the plan, in fact, quite the opposite. The Government is working very diligently on child care. I should say again to the Hon. Member, as I have repeated so often before, that the legislation will be tabled and I hope we will have Liberal approval, just for once—just for once—on legislation—

**Ms. Copps:** Poor Jake!

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** —that will be passed, and that is a social policy initiative—

**Ms. Copps:** Let's start crying, Jake.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** —rather than the kind of nattering I hear even now from those who supposedly think they know better.

**Ms. Copps:** Poor little Jake!

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REMOVE FREEZE ON  
EMERGENCY FUNDS

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, given that the Canadian Government has not yet introduced its child care Bill which has been expected since last March, will it grant short term emergency funds so that existing child care programs may be maintained? Indeed, you have not given a

single cent so far and this Bill does not appear on your priority list.

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat again today that it is a priority. Again, the Hon. Member is more fair, more intelligent, and more insightful than those who generally speak on that side on social policy, so I would just remind her that if she takes a look at the amount of money this Government is spending right now under CAP on child care, and the amount of money the Liberal Government spent when she was the women's spokesperson, she will see how little was spent, and I would think she might want to get up on a point of order after Question Period and change the erroneous part of her question.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, this being Thursday, I would like to ask the Deputy Government House Leader to give us the usual statement of government business.

I realize that the Government likes to think, as it says, with respect to the debate on the trade deal, that discussion outside the House is a replacement for parliamentary discussion. That may be why the Deputy Government House Leader already telegraphed to the press much of his statement of government business earlier this week. However, I think I should still show sufficient respect for Parliament and our parliamentary procedures to ask the Deputy Government House leader to give the formal statement of government business at this time.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I did have some discussions with the media as to what might happen over the next couple of weeks. My hon. friend will know that I delivered by hand a letter to him suggesting what might be a reasonable arrangement of business, which I have not released to the media, although my friend released my letter to the media last week without permission.

I would say to the Member that today we will call the motion to extend the sitting into the summer. I appreciate that neither the New Democrats nor the Liberals wish to sit into the summer, but we intend to continue with the business of the Government and the House.

Tomorrow, in the event that the procedural argument on the motion to extend the sitting is not completed today, we will continue that argument. If in fact the argument is completed, we will designate tomorrow as an allotted day.

Monday, we will have to wait and see if we are able to complete that argument and proceed with the motion to extend the sitting into the summer somewhat.