Oral Questions

Conservatives touch any programs the move will be blamed by the Liberals on Free Trade even if the trade deal is not to blame. "Every sparrow that falls is going to be blamed on the Canada–U.S. Free Trade Agreement", he said.

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CHILD CARE

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare on the crisis in child care in Canada.

Six months have passed since the election was called and the matter is urgent. Why is there no legislative commitment in the Speech from the Throne to child care, and will the Minister table a new Child Care Act tomorrow?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne the Government made it clear that it had a commitment to the principle of child care. I suppose the Hon. Member can be excused because she wasn't here and that is why she doesn't recognize that it was the Liberal Senate which was responsible for not having child care legislation today.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: We would have had this legislation today if it were not for a Senate which my colleague refers to as a Triple L Senate: "Liberal, lazy, and light".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: You can't say that. Withdraw!

REQUEST FOR ACTION

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, there is a child care crisis in this country and the Minister is trying to blame it on on somebody else. The Government's previous child care strategy failed in most respects to address the reality.

Will the Minister assure us that he will introduce a Bill that is responsive to the very real legitimate concerns of Canadian parents and the needs of Canadian children? Will he do it immediately?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member should know, elements of the child care strategy are already in place and are already working to aid Canadians.

Second, the Hon. Member should know that it was her colleagues in the House of Commons and in the Senate who are responsible for the fact that there is not legislation in place today.

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AIR SAFETY

REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF MINISTER

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Canadians, particularly those in my community of Thunder Bay and Dryden, Ontario, know there is a big difference between theoretical concerns over air safety and the shocking realities of an air plane crash.

So far this Government has taken no steps whatever to deal with the crisis in air safety other than having those who pick up the pieces change the reporting structure.

Will the Prime Minister accept his responsibility for over-all government policy, start the process of rebuilding public confidence in air safety by replacing the Minister of Transport with an individual who is prepared to take charge of his Department and this matter, and restore public confidence?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think it will save a lot of time if I say it in both official languages: I have absolutely no intention of resigning.

[English]

Mr. Benoît Bouchard (Roberval): I don't have any intention of resigning.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I think we are here in the House to deal with questions in a substantive matter. If the Hon. Member has any questions about air safety, I would be glad to answer them. And especially since Canada is known the world over as having one of the best air safety systems in the world.

Last year, we had over 5,600,000 activities with a minimum of accidents. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Canada's air traffic system works well and that the level of cooperation is excellent.

I may add that since the Hon. Member was referring to the terrible crash at Dryden, I hope he will not try to play politics with air safety.