

PROPOSED CANADA CHILD CARE ACT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on child care. It is basically signed by people from Manitoba. I am sure the Minister responsible for the Child Care Act will be interested in what the people from his province say.

They claim that the Canada Child Care Act as proposed by the Government contains neither national objectives nor necessary funding arrangements and will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care. They believe that it is in the best interest of young children, women, and families in Canada for Parliament to withdraw the Canada Child Care Act forthwith.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and responsibility to table a petition signed by Canadians in Ottawa, Peterborough, Oshawa, Brantford, Waubaushe, Cookstown, Whitby, and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

These Canadians point out that families throughout Canada need high quality, available, affordable child care services. They further point out that the Child Care Act proposed by the Government of Canada contains neither national objectives nor necessary funding arrangements and will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care.

They further conclude that the proposed Child Care Act is not in the best interest of young children, women, or families in Canada. They call upon Parliament to withdraw the Child Care Act immediately.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition on the same subject from citizens who live in Ottawa, Etobicoke, Windsor, and Toronto. They are joining with many other people across Canada to stress that Canada needs high quality, available, affordable child care services, that this has been repeatedly recommended by groups across Canada, and that there should be national objectives and funding mechanisms to develop a comprehensive non-profit child care system which is accessible to all families across Canada.

The petitioners feel that the Child Care Act proposed by the Government contains neither objectives nor necessary funding arrangements to achieve this goal. Therefore they propose and humbly pray and call upon Parliament to withdraw the Child Care Act forthwith.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honour to present a petition signed by some 298 residents in the communities of Eskimo Point and Baker Lake in the Northwest Territories, who are extremely concerned with the abortion issue.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus

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to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide remedy, whereas recognizing the infinite value and dignity of the unborn human person regardless of its stage of development or maturity.

The petitioners hope that in your examination of this petition you will find the petition in order and that you will exercise the discretionary powers vested in the office of the Speaker of the House of Commons to allow discussion and referral to a committee at the earliest possible time, in order that the use of abortion be eliminated except in circumstances where the life of the mother is endangered.

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● (1120)

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

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MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-144, an Act to authorize payments by Canada toward the provision of child care services, and to amend the Canada Assistance Plan in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: There are 40 motions and amendments set down on the Notice Paper in relation to Bill C-144, an Act to authorize payments by Canada toward the provision of child care services, and to amend the Canada Assistance Plan in consequence thereof.

[Translation]

At this point I am prepared to hand down a preliminary ruling in order to let the debate proceed.

I will try to address the House as soon as possible to hand down a more exhaustive ruling.