matter of fact, those American companies are now eyeing Canada as a potential market. They can come to Canada, hire a Canadian mother to bear a child, and it is all covered and paid for under the Canadian medicare system.

Mr. McDermid: Can they do it now?

Ms. Copps: If my Private Members' Bill is passed, no.

Mr. McDermid: Oh, but they can do it now before the trade Bill? I see. You mean the Liberals have allowed that all these years?

Ms. Copps: My Bill says that surrogacy for profit should be illegal. However, the Government believes in doing anything for the almighty dollar. It does not care for a national health care system. It would love to see us go to the kind of system they have in the U.S. where 25 per cent of women of child bearing age have no medical insurance.

Mr. McDermid: Oh, what nonsense.

Ms. Copps: Where the infant mortality rate is 40 per cent higher than in Canada. That is the hidden agenda of this deal.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: Why do you think these companies, these big businesses, are coming to the Government to promote this deal? They would love to see a situation where we have no maternity benefits, where we have no minimum wage, which is the case in the vast majority of states in the U.S., where we do not have affirmative action, where we do not have child care programs. Those companies, aided and abetted by the Government, do not believe in the development of the social safety net which has characterized Canada.

We are different from the Americans. We extend our hand in friendship to the U.S., but we have made a conscious decision to develop a society which says we pay for national medicare. We developed a society which says we have responsibility to the poor and weak in a way quite different from the U.S.

If the Government is so sure that its trade deal is not going to affect this, why not pass a simple amendment?

I would like to read the amendment into the record. What could make it more clear? It says:

> ""7. For greater certainty, nothing in this Act shall be interpreted so as to affect the continuation of existing or the establishment of new Canadian social programs, including medicare, unemployment insurance, daycare, pensions, minimum wage laws, labour laws and maternity benefits.""

That is clear and apparently corroborates what the Government has been telling us. All along the Government has said that medicare will not be touched. Let us put it in the legislation by way of amendment. If the Government is so sure of its position that our senior citizens are going to be safe, then why not pass an amendment which puts it right in the legislation?

We believe that the Government will not move this amendment because it intends by way of commercial blood banks, by way of commercial health management facilities which could include for-profit operation of everything from hospitals right through to health clinics, to see the harmonization of social programs. In fact, a number of people who appeared before the trade committee made exactly that point. Let us look at some of the people who came before the committee and what they had to say about the deal. One was Mitchell Sharp. There are a number of eminent authorities who understand that the intent—

Mr. McDermid: Mitchell Sharp? The senior trade adviser to the Liberal Party?

Ms. Copps: —and long-term objective of this deal is to see the harmonization, not only of economic policy but also of social policy between the two countries.

Mr. McDermid: What nonsense.

Ms. Copps: The Government continues to say "what nonsense". Why not move a simple amendment to clarify the situation? Does the Government expect that the senior citizens of this country—

Mr. McDermid: It does not need clarification because it is not there.

Ms. Copps: —are to take your Government at its word? Senior citizens heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) when he said their pensions would not be touched. The first thing he did was to try to grab off their pensions. I am from Missouri and I want to see it written in the law.

This amendment will merely specify that medicare will not be affected by the deal. Unemployment insurance will not be affected by the deal. Yet the Government will not move the amendment because it knows full well that the subsidy panel which will be examining our social programs over the next five to seven years will put future parental leave programs at risk. It will put unemployment insurance programs at risk. It will put medicare at risk.

The Parliamentary Secretary flees because he knows that his position—

Mr. McDermid: The Parliamentary Secretary does not flee. He is going to check your facts.

Ms. Copps: —in refusing this amendment is indefensible. Look at Article 2010 and 2011, the nullification clauses. They say that any American company, once this deal is put in place, can come to Canada, lay a complaint about our medicare programs, our unemployment insurance, and demand compensation. Under the nullification clauses we will be required to pay them compensation because of programs that we have established under our social safety network.

When you talk about the over-all objective of harmonization, let us face it, do you think the Americans are going to