

S.O. 21

Mr. Speaker, you may rest assured that Canadians are fully aware of the significant issues on which they will cast their ballots at the next election, and we will be re-elected.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his allotted time has expired.

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[English]

DAY CARE

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, last week opposition Members were calling for the resignation of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) for a statement which he was supposed to have made in an interview. It is the height of irresponsibility for those opposition Members to mislead the public on this matter.

The Minister, in replying to a question on whether he felt day care was the best stimulation for children, actually said: "nothing is exclusive" and "for some children, day care is the best stimulation, but one should not dismiss that for some other children the best stimulation is the parental home".

Both opposition Parties, with the support of unions, day care advocates, and feminists, are claiming that a universal day care system is needed. Yet, all across the country in our hearings many other people have come forward and said that universal day care was not the answer but that there was a need for day care and that the Government should help those who need help.

Let us not fall into the trap set by the socialists on the other side of the House who see universal day care as the cure-all for all problems. I, for one, am hopeful that the parliamentary committee, which will report at the end of March, can give the Government the necessary direction on how to treat this very crucial issue.

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HOLLAND COLLEGE MARINE CENTRE

IMPORTANCE OF NAVIGATION COURSES

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the future of the Holland College Marine Centre in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, is in jeopardy because of the Government's plan to remove deck officers from the list of CEIC designated occupations for 1987-88.

This Marine Centre was built with CEIC funding some 17 years ago. Over the years it has acquired an excellent reputation with its highly qualified instructors and its up to date equipment. In 1985, 90 per cent of the students who took navigation courses obtained employment.

If accepted, the proposal would force the Marine Centre to close. This is completely unacceptable to the citizens of Prince Edward Island.

I call upon, in fact I demand the Minister to reject this misguided plan and reinstate navigation courses on the list of designated occupations for training at the institution.

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THE ECONOMY

REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES—EFFECT ON SENIORS' SAVINGS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, interest rates are falling again. The prime lending rate of chartered banks is now down to 9.25 per cent as compared with a high of 22 per cent under the former Liberal Government. That is good news because it means more people can afford to buy homes, more people can afford to buy cars, more businesses can afford to invest, and more jobs will be created.

However, for some Canadians, especially senior citizens living on their savings, falling interest rates are a worry. For them it means lower incomes at a time when taxes are increasing and the cost of living, albeit more modestly than before, is still increasing.

Seniors are worried as well by rumours that their incomes will be reduced even further by the elimination of the \$1,000 investment income tax deduction. I hope the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will bear their concerns in mind as he prepares his 1987 Budget.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

SALE OF CANADAIR TO BOMBARDIER—FORMER SENIOR OFFICIAL'S EMPLOYMENT BY BOMBARDIER

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, our Party believes that Canadian taxpayers received far too little for the sell-out of Canadair to Bombardier. Now suspicion over the sale must be increased by one of the senior officials dealing with the sale, the Associate Deputy Minister of DRIE, moving to a senior position with Bombardier. I call on the Minister responsible for DRIE to give the House a full report as urgently as possible of all dealings this official had with the Canadair sale through all its stages. I also call on the Government to stop such direct moves of senior officials to private firms that have benefited from the Government, as in the Oerlikon case and now with Bombardier.