

*Routine Proceedings*

Motion agreed to.

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# HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SENIORS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN

## SECOND REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

**Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the second report of the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women entitled *Canada's Children: Investing in our Future*. This report is the result of two years of study by the subcommittee on poverty of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare Social Affairs, Senior Citizens and Status of Women which examined the unanimous motion of the House of Commons:

That this House express its concern for the more than one million Canadian children currently living in poverty and seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.

• (1030)

The report makes recommendations which would ensure that every child in Canada is born as healthy as possible and that all parents have the necessary income to provide for the basic needs of their children and an adequate discretionary income to meet the educational, recreational and cultural needs of their children.

It proposes the design of a program which would provide financial incentives for people to work and ensure income security through an improvement in the federal minimum wage, a guaranteed earned income supplement and a refundable child care tax credit with maximum benefits given to low income earners.

The implementation of these recommendations would not only help poor children, but it would also help Canada compete internationally by maximizing the potential of our most valuable resource, our children.

Your committee requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 109.

## TABLING OF MINORITY REPORTS

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, we just heard the report of the subcommittee on poverty.

On behalf of the Liberal caucus, I would like to present our minority report.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** There is not unanimous consent.

I regret that since April, minority reports are now to be heard.

**Mr. Pagtakhan:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a minority report because the report presented by the subcommittee in our estimation is replete with recommendations that say they should be done as soon as possible with no definite timetable. Some of them have too many exhortations telling provinces what to do without financial and regulatory incentives. In fact, some of the recommendations are futile, downright ridiculous, behind the times in terms of the definition of poverty, redundant and really a further stab at our social programs and not a cure at all for poverty, but instead will perpetuate the malignant problem of poverty in Canada.

Therefore, I table our report.

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might get unanimous consent from the House to introduce, in both official languages, the New Democrats minority response to the report?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** You do not need unanimous consent. Go ahead.

**Mr. Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** The response of the New Democratic Party to the majority report of the subcommittee on poverty is somewhat similar to that just mentioned by my colleague from Winnipeg.

This House has unanimously voted to resolve to end child poverty by the year 2000. This report will not ensure that child poverty is ended by the year 2000.

The Prime Minister made a commitment in signing the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child to make children the first goal in national resources in good times and bad times.

This report will not support fully that call. It appears to me that the majority response from the subcommittee will hold back both the Prime Minister's commitment