

wrapping and those communities expected something meaningful inside.

My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given the fact that your Government has consulted far and wide—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Marchi: Given that his Government has consulted far and wide and knows what those consultations were, why did he reject the unanimous recommendations of the committee that reflected the aspirations of the community to have a multiculturalism Bill that legislates principles but also addresses the hard fact realities of the here and now, rather than patting people on the back for what happened yesterday?

[Translation]

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member opposite, and with him, those who have done nothing for multiculturalism, is challenging the partnership the Minister has proposed to be able to administer the new legislation. Perhaps I may repeat, for the Hon. Member's benefit, that yesterday was a great day for Canada. The whole world will come knocking at our door to ask us how we managed to accomplish this excellent piece of work.

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[English]

CHILD CARE

PROPOSED NATIONAL PROGRAM

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I know that working parents who desperately need reliable child care are anxiously looking forward to the details of the national child care program which he will report tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Mitchell: Will the Minister assure us today that news reports are wrong and that billions of dollars for child care will not go toward regressive tax exemptions but will be used to increase substantially the spaces for quality affordable child care that are so urgently needed across Canada?

● (1500)

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is as anxious as I am to see what the statement will be tomorrow. It is ready, and I invite the Hon. Member to be there tomorrow.

Oral Questions

TAX DEDUCTIONS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister as a matter of principle today, does he not agree that any program that doubles the child care expense deduction will not increase much needed child care spaces and in fact will benefit upper-income Canadians at the expense of average and low-income families? Does the Minister think this is fair? Is this fairness for Canadians?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the principles of today are valid principles for tomorrow as well. I want to tell the Hon. Member that I have said continuously that when we come forward with a national child care plan, which the Prime Minister said would be brought forward by this Government and which is another area in which the Government is delivering on its promises, the Government will bring forward a plan which will give parents choices. It will not fit one mould which the New Democratic Party, with its blinkered approach to life, feels is the only way to go with these things. I am not going to accept an NDP way of life.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S.S.R.—PLIGHT OF LEV AND MARINA FURMAN

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Just a few days ago, Lev and Marina Furman were again denied their exit visas to leave the Soviet Union. I met this couple when I was in Leningrad in May of this year. For 16 years Mr. Furman and his wife have been trying to leave the Soviet Union. They are so distraught that yesterday, I understand, they began a hunger strike. I know Marina's health is very fragile. She just about lost her life in giving birth to their daughter Bayla Alyia.

Surely Canada can be of some help in a tragic and sad case such as this?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his continuing interest in this case and others of its kind. I am familiar with the case. The Hon. Member will know that I make it a practice in meetings with Soviet officials to raise cases of this kind, and I will continue to do that.

The matter has been raised by the Embassy in Moscow. We will continue to raise those kinds of pressures. I believe the Hon. Member himself intends to be part of a large demonstration of persons from across North America who are interested in issues of this kind and who will be making their views known directly when General Secretary Gorbachev is in Washington. I think these kinds of efforts also help to underline the broadly based concern for questions of human rights in the Soviet Union.