

*Canada Child Care Act*

know that it is extremely important to respect their jurisdiction.

As for setting the priorities for child care development, I think that is up to each province, depending on its state of development.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remind my colleague who just completed her presentation that the FTQ (Quebec Federation of Labour) submitted a brief to the Legislative Committee recommending that standards not be important (in the Bill), since they come under provincial jurisdiction. This is an extremely sensitive and important subject, Mr. Speaker, and that is why I oppose Motions 21 and 22.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to motions numbered 21 and 22, and I wish to inform the Parliamentary Secretary that I think her negative comments on these proposals are unfortunate.

In fact, I will have trouble saying everything I want to say within the ten minutes I am allowed. However, I will assume that people understand we are talking about two quite different things here. First, we have day-care in the work place, which I think is an interesting proposal and should be part of a general policy encouraging employers to provide day-care for children in the work place.

The other amendment, No. 22, deals with the child between the ages of 6 and 13 who goes to elementary school, whose parents work and who should have access to day-care after school so his parents can be sure their child is in a safe environment, busy with his studies.

The Parliamentary Secretary said earlier that it was up to the provinces to set their priorities for day-care, and I agree that constitutionally, and both education and day-care are involved, this is strictly provincial jurisdiction. However, the Bill seems to make the problem more complex by saying that if a province provides day-care, it is excluded. At least that is what it says in the interpretation we have of Bill C-144.

● (1210)

[English]

I would like to get back to that because it is the definition section which excludes child care services related wholly or partially to education. If the Minister tells me that this interpretation of Bill C-144 does not exclude child care services related wholly or partially to education, then of course my argument is going to be quite different. But my understanding up to now is that, indeed, Bill C-144 excludes wholly or partially related day care associated with education.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** The last part, yes.

**Mr. Gauthier:** The Minister is indicating the last part in education, which I guess is the point I am trying to make.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** It's the sticker.

**Mr. Gauthier:** It is the sticker, as he said. I spent 11 years on school boards in my previous incarnation as a public servant. I know for a fact that we established lighthouse programs in New Edinburgh, for example, and that at other schools programs were offered to parents to look after their children after the normal day school session was over, so we made sure that the kids were looked after and their educational process was pursued. If the Minister is telling me that a province is not able to draw from Bill C-144 the proper support to fund these programs on school sites in the educational system at the time, with the people, then I am right, there is an exclusion here in this Bill which does not allow for that.

I find that regrettable but the Minister will address that point and perhaps he can convince me that I am wrong.

[Translation]

My first point was day-care in the work place. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of statistics and a survey made in my riding that I would like to share with Hon. Members.

As you know, Ottawa—Vanier is a National Capital riding which depends a lot on the federal Government because it happens to be the major employer. Now then, if the employer—the federal Government—wants to set an example, as we do here in the House of Commons, for instance, where we have excellent and first class day care facilities for our staff, the federal Government being the employer has to provide day care centres for its employees.

In a poll I conducted recently most respondents—59 per cent—agreed that the employer should set up day care facilities at the workplace. That seems quite reasonable to me.

[English]

The facts are that the first experiment with child care in the workplace in Ontario was in 1970. The experiment failed mainly because it was full of red tape and it was very hard to operate and difficult to maintain. I think that a good program can be established, the costs to be shared by the employee and employer. I think we should have some consideration for those workers who are on night shift, for example, and it does happen in the Ottawa—Vanier area that people do have night shift employment and they would require some child care during the day or after school. I think there is a good point being made by my constituents when they bring that to my attention. I would like to say that in the riding of Ottawa—Vanier, the most recent statistics I have based on the 1986 census . . .

[Translation]

. . . indicate that there are 19,265 families in my riding, including 8,180 with children at home. There are 3,635 single-parent families, mostly women who have children and work to earn a living. The total number of children at home is 18,500, including 4,325 aged 6 or under. Mr. Speaker, they are the ones who need day care, and perhaps I should conclude my remarks on that note.