

In my riding right now, that income tax return is so complex accountants who used to volunteer their services to help senior citizens prepare their returns are telling me this year: "We have no time." It is too complicated! Although they told us they were going to make it simpler for Canadians it is the opposite. They made things more complicated, Mr. Speaker. They finally discouraged those in my riding who used to help people who needed help, seniors who are entitled to income tax credits, the poor who are entitled to income tax credits, and many have-nots who, because they do not understand the documents and forms, do not fill them out and do not apply for credits.

Let me repeat that this Government is hardnosed, Mr. Speaker.

I think we are all aware of the problems, Mr. Speaker.

I see you are preparing to interrupt me. Mr. Speaker, if it were possible, I would like to resume tomorrow morning, as it is 6 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** A motion to adjourn the House under S.O. 38 is now deemed to have been moved and seconded.

It is therefore moved that this House now adjourn.

---

• (1800)

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

### CHILD CARE—REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION—REQUEST FOR ACTION

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 38 to revisit an issue which I raised in this place on April 4 last. I am talking, of course, about the issue of child care.

On that day I called upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Beatty) to introduce comprehensive child care legislation in order to address the critical situation that has arisen. It is a situation critical not just for families right across this country, but also

### *Adjournment Debate*

critical for the child care profession in general. My concern stems from a reference that was made in the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Governor General in the other place, and its scant mention of the Government's commitment to child care.

The relevant passage reads as follows: "The Government remains committed to a national child care program". What is of great concern to all Canadians is what the Government truly means by a national child care program. Does this refer to Bill C-144 as it was tabled in the last Parliament? I devoutly hope not. The vast majority of Canadian child care workers and parent groups alike rejected most of the Government's proposals as laid out in that Bill.

I am particularly concerned that the views that were expressed by these groups, from Vancouver to my own riding of Halifax, will continue to go unnoticed and ignored. Even a cursory glance at some of this testimony will underline deeply the rationale behind the recommendations and proposals that all these groups put forward. I will deal with some of these proposals later.

First, I would like to paint a clearer picture of the current status of child care in Canada. Almost two million Canadian children need child care outside the home, some part time, some full time. Under the present system only 10 per cent of those two million children can be accommodated. A staggering number of parents look for such care in vain. The remaining 90 per cent of children who are in need of child care are either looked after by relatives, friends, or babysitters, or unlicensed caregivers, or they are simply left alone, the latch-key children that we hear so much about. These statistics are profoundly disturbing. In 1987 the percentage of children under the age of 13 in licensed child care in Canada was remarkably low.

Let me give a few examples based on 1987 figures provided by the National Council of Welfare. In Newfoundland, where there are currently 30,998 children under the age of 13, only 1,318 of these children are being cared for by licensed child care services. In other words, 96 per cent of Newfoundland children under the age of 13 cannot be accommodated, should the need arise. Similar figures are equally disturbing in my home Province of Nova Scotia, where there are 48,298 children under the age of 13, some 42,901 of whom do not enjoy the possibility of a licensed quality child care space.