

information over to the Director of Investigation Research of my Department who will certainly be interested in seeing that evidence, if the Hon. Member has any.

In the meantime, the Department has a group that monitors petroleum prices. If there is any evidence of collusion, or trying to fix prices, the Director of Investigation Research will certainly take action.

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### CHILD CARE

#### NATIONAL OBJECTIVES—FUNDING CRITERIA

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Unfortunately, the child care Bill that was tabled yesterday is as flawed as the Conservative child care strategy. For example, the Minister will know that the preamble to the Bill mentions the need to improve the availability, affordability, quality, and accessibility of child care services. Yet the Bill does not include these as national objectives.

We agree that standards are a provincial jurisdiction. However, why has the Government refused to establish national objectives for child care in the body of the legislation, with the requirement that the provinces and territories must adhere to these to qualify for federal funding? Is it because your restrictive funding mechanism makes it impossible to meet these objectives?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, no, that is not the case. If the Member looks at Bill C-144, she will find that the objective for availability is to increase subsidized spaces over the next seven years with 200,000 spaces. If she looks at affordability, she will find that the provinces that are spending below the national average and have less revenue than the national average will have more generous funding arrangements under this plan than the Canada Pension Plan or other cost shared arrangements.

When she talks about quality, she will find clearly that the provinces themselves, as well as in the negotiations we are having, want to increase the quality. We can build that into the federal-provincial agreements.

I appreciate her comment about the quality aspect to any arrangement relating to licensing being provincial jurisdiction.

If she looks at accessibility, there is an increase of 100 per cent in subsidized spaces in seven years. That will obviously increase accessibility.

The Government has responded exactly to those principles in the preamble.

### Oral Questions

#### REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT POSTPONE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister talk about accessibility when an average of 30,000 new spaces a year that he talks about will not even meet the needs of Metro Toronto, much less the needs of two million working families across Canada? He should know from the research that has been done that the funding for of profit operations will not ensure quality.

Since the Government's child care strategy is destined to fail dismally in meeting Canada's need for child care and, if proceeded with, will set child care back across the country rather than establishing a program of which we can all be proud, will the Government hold back this Bill until after the next election and let Canadians have the final say?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No, Mr. Speaker. If the Hon. Member looks at the very question she asks, she will know that their policy has been based on 1.4 million children needing day care. That has not been proven. They want a policy that will cost at least \$11 billion a year. They want a policy in which parents do not have choice. They want a policy in which they will dictate to the provinces how to run provincial jurisdiction.

**Mr. Broadbent:** All not true.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** All true. We will pass this legislation and take it to the people. They will then decide.

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### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION OF MEMBERS FROM THE GUATEMALA CONGRESS

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of a delegation of Members from the Guatemala Congress.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### APARTHEID

#### TENNIS TOURNAMENT—PARTICIPATION OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the South African athletes who propose to participate in the Player's Tennis Tournament in my riding in August. In July, 1985, the Conservative Government put out a policy which can only be called racist because it backtracked on the Commonwealth Gleneagles Agreement on sporting contacts with South