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know there is a concentration of poor children or on an individual needs tested basis. Those programs are permissible under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Similarly, they can implement day care programs. There are three provinces that in fact are affected by the Canada Assistance Plan limit of 5 per cent; Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. However, neither B.C. nor Alberta was previously spending anywhere near the 5 per cent. Ontario was the only province which was substantially increasing its expenditures under the Canada Assistance Plan at rather dramatic levels, up to 14 per cent in certain years. There was certainly a commitment by the Ontario government to both expand subsidized day care and to expand welfare.

What then is the answer? We have an NDP government in British Columbia with a commitment just as strong as that of the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby.

• (1140)

Will the hon. member tell me what she thinks is the appropriate role of the British Columbia government? Of the other provinces, does she think they should initiate these programs? I know she disagrees with the 5 per cent cap. It seems to me she is saying that the federal government should take over and fund all these programs. However, given the current constitutional crisis and the attitudes of the provinces, which I understand are absolutely opposed to a national day care program, does she think that the federal government should be doing this against the wishes of the provinces? What role does she see for the provinces in this country?

Ms. Black: Mr. Speaker, it is a long and convoluted question, but as a member of Parliament in this place, I see a responsibility to all of the children of this country, not children in certain sections, not children in certain provinces, but all of the children of the country.

The member spoke of the Canada Assistance Plan and said that provincial governments could access funds through that to feed children. I want to remind the member that the Vancouver School Board, which has instituted at the municipal level, at the school board level, a lunch program for hungry school children in that

city tried to access the Canada Assistance Plan funding and were denied any funding by this government.

There was a long and hard struggle to try to access those funds for school lunch programs in British Columbia which was led by my colleague, the member for Vancouver East, who had many questions and many meetings with ministers on that side of the House to try to feed these hungry children. They were denied that by this government.

When she talked about the Canada Assistance Plan as only affecting a small part of the budget in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, I would like to remind the member that the Canada Assistance Plan funds shelters for battered women, funds welfare systems and programs. It funds the very programs of the people she claims to care about.

It funds all of the child care shared-cost programs. I would say that most provinces with the financial ability to pay would be more than happy to access funds under that program, to build more child care spaces. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

I have not heard of any province saying that it is opposed to a national child care program where there are funds coming from this government to share in that expense.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged having the opportunity to speak on this motion that was put forward by my colleague from Halifax.

I have been reviewing and reading a lot of the work that we have done in this House and in committees across this country. I would like to cite the report that my colleague from Don Valley North put out in June, the "War Against Women", which is a very good report. We all have read different works that have been done by the researchers in the Library of Parliament.

About three weeks ago, I was given a short note by a lady in my riding. Her name is Christina Benson. It is on this issue of violence against women. I read it, and I believe she puts this issue forward in a way that I certainly could not improve upon.

I would like to read Christina's notes because I think they reflect the feeling and the knowledge of someone who is very close to this issue. She titles this: