

*Oral Questions***DAVID MILGAARD**

I refer my friend to the \$6.7 billion in programs which we put into the system every year. Moreover, if we consider all the tax credits and all the tax cuts that we have for Canadians it comes to about \$15 billion a year. I do not say that it is too much, I say that it is a lot of money and it is done in light of the capacity to have to do that.

We are looking for a package which will allow us to find ways to do more.

Once again I repeat, Canadians have to know that the costs of programs dealing with children and families are one-tenth of the Canadian budget. It is not too much but I believe it is the second highest level in the world.

Mr. Mike Breagh (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister.

While the minister is thinking about what he might do, he should be aware that in Halifax, for example, there is an opportunities program run by Bayers-Westwood Family Support Services Association. That program provides much needed child care for some 60 children. Their funding will expire at the end of December. Will the minister give us the commitment today that that one example of parents trying to help themselves and help others work out of the poverty cycle will have its funding extended and that it will be in place and operational in January, and that the funding will not be terminated in December.

• (1440)

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, obviously, I cannot make a piecemeal approach commitment in the way my friend would like.

I repeat what I said when answering the Leader of the Opposition, that child care and child poverty refers first to the province of Nova Scotia.

If my friend listens to me, I think he will understand. The member believes that we have the capacity to put \$3 billion, \$4 billion or \$5 billion tomorrow into the child care system in this country. It is not a fact. That is to spend money we do not have. We are trying to harmonize the money we put with the capacity to do that. Child care will be dealt with within the capacity we have to pay.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. We are all still waiting for something positive on the David Milgaard case.

Milgaard, 22 years in jail, still awaits a possible new trial. He waits, his family waits, his lawyers wait, we all wait. All we get is a story that someday the minister will rise in her place and tell us her decision, but that day never seems to come. Is the minister in a position today to announce her decision?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, first of all when I am ready to announce a decision, I will announce it to the applicant and not to Parliament. My relationship is with the applicant and his counsel. His counsel have just been to Ottawa to deal with Department of Justice officials. A number of questions were dealt with at that time. They went back to Winnipeg to consider a number of points and communicated with us in the last few days their views on those points.

I am hopeful that response will enable me to render a decision in the near future. If the hon. member had in fact kept up with the progress of this case, he would not make the comment that he makes in this House.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, the situation is quite unbearable. How long do we have to wait?

I am advised that at the beginning of November Milgaard and his lawyers were advised by the minister or the department that a decision would be forthcoming within two to three weeks.

That time has gone and I think what we are into is mental torture. Why can this minister not end the pain and make her decision now?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I will repeat that my relationship is with Mr. Milgaard's counsel. That is a relationship that has been fruitful. I am hopeful of being able to render a decision in the very near future.