

Once again, we believe that the procedures we have today are the right ones. We are working on very basic and fundamental matters, where our initial decisions will affect all subsequent decisions. I don't think we can be accused of—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell).

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CHILD CARE

PROVISION OF SERVICES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Today we celebrate the anniversary of the Charter of Rights. Does the Minister agree with statements contained in two equality reports which state that “adequate, accessible, affordable child care is clearly essential if equality is to be achieved” and “the federal Government must move quickly to achieve this goal”?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the very recommendations to which the Hon. Member refers are in keeping with the promise made by the Prime Minister during the election campaign that this would be an important issue for a Government that he would lead.

In addition, through the Prime Minister's guidance and leadership this House has struck a task force on which the Hon. Member sits, to find out the best method by which Canada can address this question.

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister will recall that the Prime Minister also promised funding.

In view of the child care crisis which is so evident in every province which the child care task force has visited, will the Minister initiate action within Cabinet to allocate emergency federal funding for child care during this year, 1986, as an incentive to joint action with the provinces?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member sits on that very task force. She knows that there have to be additions, changes, and improvements to day care. We all recognize that. Week after week the task force has been asking for people's views. For her to say now that she already has a solution, regardless of the fact that the work has not been done, is unfair to those people appearing before the task force.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES-LIBYA CONFRONTATION—PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister tell the House specifically when and from whom he first learned of the American plans to attack Libya?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have indicated that we were kept informed of developments, as an ally ought to be kept informed. We put forward views, particularly dealing with the safety and security of Canadian nationals in Libya, all of whom are still there. It would be singularly unhelpful to them to reveal any details in regard to that.

TIMING OF RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister two questions. I asked him when he was informed, and he did not answer that question. I asked him by whom he was informed, and he did not answer that question. Because I do not think that these are the type of questions he can avoid answering I will ask them again. Considering his good relationship with the President of the United States, will he tell us on what date, at what time, and by whom he was first informed? Specifically, what kind of advice did he give to the individual who told him?

• (1430)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is not going fishing but is going to new heights of irresponsibility. He asked two questions and I have no intention of answering either because they could affect the security and safety of Canadians in Libya. That is an irresponsible suggestion the Hon. Member made.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EQUALITY RIGHTS

MEMBERSHIP OF COURT CHALLENGES PANEL

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, over a month ago the Canadian Council on Social Development submitted a proposed list of names for the Court Challenges equality rights Panel. I would ask the Minister of Justice why it is that the Government has refused so far to approve this important list with the result that very many important court challenges remain unfunded. Is the Minister in fact attempting to exert a degree of political interference in what should be an arm's length process?