

In that regard, I again ask him to call upon his colleagues and the English-speaking community in Montreal and Quebec to oppose—

Some hon. members: Order.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I have to point out that the question is out of order.

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• (1500)

CHILD BENEFITS

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

As the Acting Prime Minister will know, there has been a great deal of confusion on the part of the Canadian public dealing with the child benefits package.

In the *Budget Papers* the minister announced that \$400 million would be provided this year for the new child benefits package. We found out yesterday from the minister who responded in the House that it is now \$500 million.

Could the Acting Prime Minister please confirm for Canadians just how much money is being made available: the \$400 million in the budget or the \$500 million as claimed by the minister yesterday?

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased my colleague brought this matter to the attention of the House.

As he will realize, the white paper with regard to the child benefits package is a new regime of fairer and simpler taxation. Obviously the Minister of Finance stated the \$400 million in the *Budget Papers*. We are now reviewing with our counterparts from province to province the package the minister put forward. We will be coming back to the House later with the specific plans.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the Acting Prime Minister knows, this child benefits package is front and centre to the program of this government. It is good to see so many members on the opposite side concerned and so many facts available.

Points of Order

In answer to another question yesterday, the question about the public consultation aspect of the white paper—and all members of Parliament know that a white paper is the cornerstone of public consultation with the whole country—the minister responded that they would be “working hard”.

Could the Acting Prime Minister elaborate on what working hard means for a public consultation process?

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am pleased so many members on the other side of the House are looking at this favourably.

Some hon. members: Favourably?

Mrs. Sparrow: Yes, favourably. It is fairer and simpler taxation. It is going to put more than \$2 million over the next five years into child care, and that is exactly what the people of Canada want.

Open consultation starts with the minister talking to his provincial counterparts, with agencies, with concerned commissions, and indeed with taxpayers and families right across the country.

I think the member can just wait and see that it will be totally open.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put my regular question to the government House leader concerning the business of the House for tomorrow and for Monday and Tuesday. Perhaps he could indicate what bills he intends to call for those particular days.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would like to designate tomorrow, Friday, March 13, an allotted day.

On Monday it is the government's intention to call Bill C-13, the federal environmental assessment process bill, for debate at report stage and to carry it through to completion hopefully on Tuesday.