

Oral Questions

children who are not being represented in plans to expand child care spaces across the country.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Minister of Finance why the Treasury of Canada and the Prime Minister are slamming the door on the promise to Canadians that we would launch a national child care program.

Why will the Government not at least, in the House today, commit that it will finance, as promised in federal-provincial discussions, the 30,000 spaces proposed in the Province of Ontario, the 60,000 spaces proposed in the Province of Quebec, and the thousands of other spaces across the country for the children who are in need, the millions of children who are in need?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government is slamming no doors shut. Frankly, that kind of stupid comment that is made so often by that Member adds nothing to either child care or debate in this House.

The point of the matter is that we are negotiating with the provinces. We do have a plan with the provinces. Obviously I am not going to put forward—

Ms. Copps: You're breaking your word.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I am not breaking my word. Last Friday the Hon. Member said I was in Ottawa when I was in Alberta. She said I was doing things with regard to blood when I wasn't, I was on a drug strategy. That is how accurate the Member is, both here and everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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FUR TRAPPING INDUSTRY

PROPOSED BRITISH FUR LABELLING LEGISLATION

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and is with regard to the question of British fur labelling. As the Minister knows, there has been a delay in the tabling of the fur labelling legislation in Britain but we do expect that it may come on very soon as an urgent matter.

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the representations that he has made on this issue to high level members of the British Cabinet. I have recently returned from the United Kingdom where I met with a number of British Members of Parliaments and Lords.

What is the Government doing to let British Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords know about

the position of Canadian parliamentarians regarding this fur labelling?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of the Hon. Member and her Party on the fur issue as it relates to Canadian hunters and trappers and their ability to maintain a way of life.

It is important to note that my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has formally expressed the concerns of Canada. We have been able to participate in the British Museums Show to assist indigenous survival and to assist the aboriginal groups who are putting forward a very important message. I hope British parliamentarians and the British Government will take seriously the impact of this action on the ability of these groups to earn a living, to have an economic activity, and to maintain a recognized cultural pursuit.

The actions of the Commissioner, Mr. McMurtry, in delivering Canada's message, and continued pressure by the Member for the Yukon and other Members on both sides of the House to have Great Britain understand the importance of this industry to Canada's people are very important.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN
BRITAIN

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, we all know that the proposed British legislation is not only anti-trapping legislation but anti-fur legislation. It is, therefore, very important to act very forcefully.

Can the Minister tell this House how much money the Canadian Government has spent in Britain on an education campaign specifically directed to politicians? Some of the other organizations are directing such programs toward the public at large but my information is that there is very little information going to British politicians in general.

Could the Minister tell us approximately how much money been spent in the United Kingdom to counteract the anti-fur legislation?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, External Affairs has spent some \$8.1 million on a program. Those dollars are being used to assist aboriginal and trapping groups, including the Canadian fur industry, in putting forward very forcefully the point of view that the Government and Members in this House have expressed.

I am pleased to have the support of the Hon. Member and her Party in this very difficult time when not only trapping but the fur industry in Canada are being threatened. I hope that support will continue. I would appreciate if she would keep her contacts up with her counterparts in Great Britain and attempt to convince them, as we have tried to convince the British Government, to act on behalf of this Canadian industry.