

Canada Child Care Act

I would just like to say, though, that I do not quite understand the Minister's logic. I recall that in committee he said the agreements would be available upon request from Health and Welfare, and there seemed to be no problem with that at the time. I do not understand why he suddenly found a problem. It seems to me that this is a function of that Department.

However, since he raised the issue we are willing to make it broader. If there is another information service which is more appropriate in another Department, we would agree. However, we do think it is very important that this information be available to groups that want to find out what is happening to their tax dollars.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker I am following this very interesting debate. Indeed it becomes academic because the Minister is completely right that in the amended version of the Bill distributed by the House dated September 10, 1988, page 4, subparagraph 3 of Clause 3 is indeed word for word what is in the amendment before us today, except that the second sentence does say, and supposedly admits, that *the Canada Gazette* is not the best read publication in this country. Why they would say that, I do not know, but it may be a fact of life that *The Canada Gazette* is not read by very many people.

Therefore, a notice will be put in *The Canada Gazette* telling those Canadians who are interested in what is going on that indeed there has been an agreement reached between the federal Government and the provinces, and that if they want a copy of the agreement they can call upon National Health and Welfare for such a copy. I take it that is what the Minister is telling us.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I might be able to find a solution to this. I think the best thing for us to do at this stage is to stand Motion No. 15, draw up the proper amendment and bring it back to the House so that we can have a proper debate on it. I think that would resolve this problem and we can carry on with debate in the House.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I think your advice is sound but I do not know if it is necessary. I think there is an agreement already that we would just take out the first sentence, because it is already in the amended Bill, and attach the second sentence as amended by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis). I think that is agreed to by all three Parties.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, from the Government's point of view, I am asking for the first sentence to be withdrawn because it is already in the Bill. I want to make the point that the Government was going to make the information available because I cannot leave that on the record. If the second sentence as amended is accepted by unanimous consent the Government is willing to accept it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I know you have all agreed to it. I would like to get a properly worded copy of it. As soon as I get that copy I will put the motion.

Motion No. 15 (Ms. Mitchell) stood.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Therefore, in order to carry on properly, I will go to Motion No. 18 standing in the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Motions Nos. 21 and 22 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Outremont are in order and will be grouped for debate but voted on separately.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved:

Motion No. 18

That Bill C-144 be amended in Clause 4 by striking out lines 11 to 15 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"(b) stipulate that in respect of contributions under this Act, the province commits itself to according special priority to meeting the needs of children from low and modest income families;"

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont) moved:

Motion No. 21

That Bill C-144 be amended in Clause 4 by adding immediately after line 38 at page 4 the following:

"(h) indicate the means by which the province will encourage the development of childcare spaces in the workplace;"

Motion No. 22

That Bill C-144 be amended in Clause 4 by adding immediately after line 38 at page 4 the following:

"(h) indicate the means by which the province will encourage the development of childcare spaces in after school setting to meet the needs of children between the ages of 6 and 13;"

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, referring to Clause 4(1)(b), Members of the House will note that an amendment was moved and adopted in the committee respecting targeting of the program. I simply read from the Bill as follows: "with special priority to meet the needs of children from low and modest-income families". Motion No. 18, moved by the Government, is one of the clean-up motions in order to correct the grammar in both official languages. That is the reason we are moving it.

● (1200)

You are asking me, as well, to comment on motions relating to subclauses 4(1)(c) and 4(1)(d). I take it that this will be dealt with later according to your grouping. Therefore I will keep my remarks restricted to Motion No. 18.

[Translation]

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, of course I support the recommendation or rather the amendment moved by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), since it concerns the amendment we or rather I presented in the legislative committee, to the effect that children from low and middle-income families be targeted by the provinces when