

*Oral Questions*

ample opportunity to do that but never did so when it was in office.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Stick to the facts.

**Mr. Charest:** The Hon. Member said I should stick to the facts. The facts indicate that we will be putting \$6.4 billion into child care over a seven year period. If the Hon. Member is wondering how fast the legislation will get through the House, that will depend upon whether his Leader will ask the Senate to put it through or not.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## REQUEST FOR GENERAL ELECTION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, if this is supposed to be the centre-piece of the Conservative election, I am not surprised the Minister did not have the guts to come into the House of Commons today to defend it because it is absolute garbage.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Ms. Copps:** If the Government does not listen to the Liberal Party and does not listen to child care groups and concerned parents across the country, will the Government call an election and let the parents of Canada decide if they want to have a child care program that has no national standards, that does nothing to ensure the safety of children, and that will only meet the needs of one-quarter of those children who are desperately in need of increased spaces?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, I think any reasonable citizen would recognize the fact that this is a substantial commitment to the area of child care in Canada on behalf of this Government—any reasonable citizen except for the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

As far as the election being called is concerned, we now know the position of the Liberal Party of Canada is that the Senate should decide when elections should be called and not the democratically elected people of Canada. We are not run by the Senate of Canada. The Liberals are, and soon they will have an election on many issues.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the Hon. Member for Hamilton East is recognized again, as she will be, I do want to remind Hon. Members that reference to other Hon. Members, whether they be Ministers or otherwise being in or out of the House, is not appropriate. I cannot help but notice today that that tactic could be carried on by both sides. Perhaps it need not be pursued.

[*Translation*]

## QUALITY OF DAY CARE CENTRES—NATIONAL STANDARDS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Members should be ashamed for what has been brought forward today, which guarantees no child . . . and you have children, you over there! It guarantees no national level of quality for child care facilities.

Why has the Conservative Government decided to subsidize provinces like Alberta, which only has commercial profit-making child care services? Are those the Conservatives' standards for child care? I would like to have an answer, at least from those who are parents: Would they leave their children in commercial profit-making day care facilities or do they want national standards, to be respected by the Conservatives?

**Hon. Jean Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, the national child care policy presented by this Government is an investment of nearly \$6.4 billion over seven years, to which another \$1 billion has recently been added. The purpose is to provide flexible services and leave parents a choice, Mr. Speaker.

Now, the Hon. Member for Hamilton East is still not happy with that, unfortunately! Perhaps she could consult the Liberal Senate, since it decides and leads the Liberal Party of Canada. We will see if the Senate will decide and if Mr. Turner intends to ask the Senate to approve the legislation or not, because he said he was God in the House of Commons.

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● (1420)

[*English*]

## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—TERMS OF U.S. LEGISLATION

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. As she will know, the American Free Trade Bill will be tabled today in the U.S. Congress. The Government should know that it still contains several provisions contrary to the Canadian Bill. First, it contains a provision which will allow the American Government to monitor and oppose Canadian imports which might be subsidized. Second, there is a provision which says that the free trade agreement will be subject to American law in the U.S. The Minister for International Trade said he did not like either one of those provisions.