

Adjournment Debate

on the subject. Two hundred projects have been approved so far. There are several feasibility studies for setting up new child care services.

Madam Speaker, I would like to suggest the hon. member go and meet businessmen in his riding, as I did in mine. We are about to set up a unique daycare facility in the workplace.

• (1810)

These businessmen realized it was no longer just the government's responsibility to set up daycare services for their employees. If the hon. member is interested, I would be glad to provide details on this new bill.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we must not forget that during the 33rd Parliament, the Liberal senators blocked a bill that was before the Senate. If this bill had been adopted, perhaps our discussion would not be the same today.

The government also transfers money to the provinces, and in 1989-90, nearly \$240 million was paid to the provinces for child care under the Canada Assistance Plan. Finally, Madam Speaker, we are firmly resolved to act on our commitments. I think the government has shown fiscal responsibility. We are convinced that, thanks to the latest budget brought down by the Minister of Finance, by the end of our term at the very least we will be able to come back with a more detailed national strategy on child care, and that will undoubtedly be the response the hon. member is waiting for.

[English]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, on October 27 last year I rose in my place during Question Period to ask the Minister of Finance about the goods and services tax and the government's advertising and promotion campaign surrounding the tax.

I found the minister's response at the time totally unacceptable. You will recall, Madam Speaker, that as far back as May 23 of last year, the New Democratic Party's research office filed a request through the Access to Information Act to find out how much money the government was budgeting to spend to advertise the unpopular GST.

It was not until September 12 that the government responded by saying that it would spend \$6.6 million on advertising. We took it at its word. Although \$6 million to advertise a program for which no legislation had yet been drafted, let alone passed, was excessive, we were pleased to get the information.

Then, one month later, officials in the Department of Finance revealed to the members of the finance committee that actually \$9.1 million worth of taxpayers' money would be spent in trying to sell this flawed and ill-conceived program to a reluctant and angry population. I was astounded.

The Minister of Finance had taken four months to provide us with the original figures and then one month later his department tells us those figures are 40 per cent higher.

This tells us two things. First, the Minister of Finance has no respect for the access to information laws of Canada. You will recall, Madam Speaker, just one month before in response to a local newspaper's request for information, the minister provided only a part of what was required in the answer.

Second, it tells us that the minister is not to be trusted. He has demonstrated that while he might say one thing, he does another. He tries to tell us that things change, and that his preliminary \$6.6 million figure was accurate. If that is correct, then Canadians know something else about the minister—he cannot manage his department.

How can a budget for something like advertising jump 40 per cent in less than one month? How can the minister expect us to believe that he has control of his department or its programs if this sort of thing goes on? I find it hard to believe. That is why I think this is more a case of the minister saying one thing and doing another.

The Minister of Finance is doing what the Prime Minister told him to do when the first polls on the GST came out and the government discovered that more 75 per cent of Canadians opposed the idea of a goods and services tax. The Prime Minister likened his government's approach to that during the free trade agreement when he said to Canadians: "If they do not like it now, we will just sell it to them". The finance minister has taken his boss, the Prime Minister, literally. The more