

However, there are many other areas that should have been addressed more progressively and with greater leadership than what the Minister has done today. For example, there is absolutely no question that the disabled have not yet realized equality in transportation. Last weekend the executive of COPOH met in the City of Ottawa. At least two disabled members of that executive had difficulty with their air transportation. Air Canada gave one member, who came from Cape Breton to Ottawa, a hard time about getting on the aircraft simply because that person was disabled.

In the time I have remaining, I want to point out to the Minister that she did not talk about taxi service. There is absolutely nothing that requires a taxi service from an airport, which is regulated and licensed by the federal Government, to accommodate the needs of a disabled person. I would ask her to take that into consideration in her statement to the House.

We welcome the suggestion by the Minister that there will be an international conference in Vancouver next year. I do not know whether it is simply an oversight by the Minister, but she said that the groups that will be involved in that international conference will be experts from Government, industry and the academic community. I want to suggest strongly to the Minister that there are no other people who are more expert in this field than the disabled. They must be involved in that conference. That was the whole purpose of the International Year of the Disabled. They are the experts.

In conclusion, I ask the Minister to consider that very seriously and come back to the House to give us the assurance that the disabled will be involved in that conference.

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PETITIONS

INQUIRY INTO USE OF TEST RANGE AT NANOOSE BAY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and responsibility to present a petition from residents of British Columbia who are very concerned about the existence of the Canadian Forces maritime experimental and test range in Nanoose Bay, British Columbia. They are concerned that the American Government policy of not declaring whether their vessels have nuclear weapons applies to Canada. They urge the House to call for a full public inquiry, with powers to investigate those concerns, before the present agreement on the test range is renegotiated.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present two groups of petitions. The first is from residents of Alberta who are expressing the same concerns as my colleague. They feel that there is a need for a public inquiry into the test range at Nanoose. They state that the inquiry should make recommendations before the agreement is renegotiated.

Child Care

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): My second set of petitions is from a group from the Prince Albert constituency in Saskatchewan who call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of the universal family allowance and rescind unfair tax increases.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from some 150 residents of the City of Thunder Bay, primarily from my riding, who continue to protest the decision of the Government to deindex the universal family allowance and make other cut-backs in the public commitment to child benefits. They see this as an unfair attack on women and families with children which will have the effect, by 1990, of making the poorest families worse off than they would be if indexation was continued. They call upon the House of Commons to reinstate or to maintain the well-established indexation of family allowance.

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● (1630)

CHILD CARE

ESTABLISHMENT AND ORDER OF REFERENCE OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been the usual consultations between the Parties and we have heard the statement of my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) with respect to the task force on child care.

The order of reference to which the Minister referred I now have. The agreement between the Parties was that the order of reference be now presented and passed without debate. I will read into the record the order of reference as follows:

That a special committee of the House of Commons, to be composed of seven Members of Parliament, to be appointed to act as a parliamentary task force on child care. The task force shall examine and report on the future of child care in Canada in the context of the changing needs of the Canadian family in today's society with particular reference to the following:

- (1) The requirements of children for care in parental or non-parental arrangements and the preferences of parents in this regard;
- (2) The role of the federal Government in child care in light of the shared responsibility for child care among parents, the private sector, the voluntary sector and governments;
- (3) Alternatives for future action by the federal Government: The alternatives proposed should take into account factors such as:
 - (a) The special circumstances of various families; including, although not exclusively, such factors as: marital status of parents, and economic circumstances of families, location, cultural background, disability of parent(s) or child.
 - (b) The financial implications for the Government of any initiatives which may be proposed including tax measures or other fiscal arrangements.

[Translation]

That the Special Committee, in carrying out its review, shall have all the powers given to Standing Committees by section 10(a) of Standing Order 70;

That the Special Committee have the power to retain the services of expert, professional, technical and clerical staff as may be deemed necessary;