

For the first time after years and years of discussion and debate, it is this Government that has taken real action on child care needs. As a woman, I know that this will ensure that women across the country finally have a chance to reach the goal of economic equality. As a parent, I know that parents as well will now, for the first time, have realistic choices and opportunities to meet their child care needs.

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SPORTS

WORLD CUP SKI JUMPING COMPETITION AT THUNDER BAY

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the eyes of Canada and the world will be on Thunder Bay this weekend. Big Thunder, the home of the National Sports Training Centre, will be host to 93 competitors, representing 17 countries, at the Molson World Cup of Ski Jumping, the kick off event for this year's international ski jumping circuit.

Canadians will be watching our own team, Horst Bulau, Colin Capel, Tod Gillman, Ian McGrath, Ron Rautio and Ron Richards as they take on the world. We will also be watching young Steve Collins, our Ojibway jumper, as he returns to the World Cup circuit. We all want to wish them good luck.

Thanks go as well to the hundreds of volunteers and the staff of Big Thunder for making this event possible. But the Government of Canada can make it even better. It can announce before this weekend that it has agreed to support Thunder Bay's bid for the 1991 or 1993 World Nordic Games. That would be the cap on an excellent weekend ahead.

I encourage all Canadians to tune into the World Cup this weekend to watch Thunder Bay host the world.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

REDUCTION IN RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of the Conservative Government of Canada are legion. The record shines with promises fulfilled and an ever improving national economy.

Unemployment, which had continuously increased under the Liberals, in line with their high interest rate policies and constraints on Canadian enterprise, is now being brought under control. Under our new enlightened Government, Canada has seen the creation of over one million new jobs. Today the unemployment rate stands at only 8.2 per cent, the lowest since 1981. In many regions of the country it is virtually zero, and even in hard-core areas people are finding more jobs are available.

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The success of Conservative economic policy is evident to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who were thrown out of work by the Liberal-Socialist coalition but who are now gainfully employed and making good money under the Conservative Government.

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HEALTH

TOXIN TAINTED MUSSELS—PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TIMEFRAME

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, this morning I received a telephone call from a woman whose father is in intensive care in the Montreal General Hospital. Much to my surprise, I also received a press release from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) which shows that his Government hid the information about the tainted mussels for at least two days before releasing that information to the public.

It is possible that not only did the Government try to hide the information for two days, but we have information that the mussel tainting may have been hidden for up to seven days, a situation which has put the industry at risk and, more importantly, has put Canadians at risk. This particular woman's father ate those mussels during the period when the Government, in making a public announcement about the situation, could have prevented more Canadians from being hospitalized.

I call upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who issued a statement which clearly showed that for at least two days he did not make a public announcement when he knew about the tainted mussels, to come clean with the public and, in particular, to report to this House why he did not tell Canadians that eating mussels could possibly put them at risk.

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BANKS AND BANKING

CHARTERED BANKS—HIGH INTEREST RATES AND CHARGES

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, the high interest rate charged by Canadian banks is a serious contributor to the cause of our national debt, our farm and small business debt crisis, and the slow growth in our national economy. Not only do chartered banks pay very little income tax but their high interest rates are the reason many self-employed people do not have to pay income tax themselves.

Banks are also ripping off the public by charges to an account, from taking money out of one's own account to depositing money into one's own account, plus many, many more charges. I was glad to hear the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) say that those charges are going to be investigated.