

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the allegation that I have agreed to anything is absolutely wrong. Number one, I think the Hon. Member should know that.

Second, we said right from the beginning that we would show federal leadership with the program and that we would have certain objectives. Those objectives are being met. In fact, time after time the Hon. Member said that it would not work, the provinces would not co-operate and they would not agree. The very opposite is happening, and that is why we now have before us proposals that we are examining.

We will have final agreements with the provinces and the legislation will come forward. I hope that the Opposition for once will be more co-operative on legislation than it has been on this issue so far.

## NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that after four years of waiting there will be some federal leadership on this matter and some national objectives. I remind the Minister that the goal of 200,000 spaces over seven years will hardly respond to the needs of mothers, 60 per cent of whom are working mothers with children under 16. I would imagine most of them need child care.

● (1440)

The Minister referred to objectives. Will he establish, in the promised child care legislation, the national child care objectives as Meech Lake requires? Will these objectives cover funding for quality child care that is affordable and pays decent wages to care givers?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member again used the word "imagine". It seems to me that that is how most of her policies are put forward.

The point of the matter is that the plans that the provinces are putting forward and the plans that we put forward are solid plans backed up by federal leadership and money. As part of that operation wages and working conditions are improving as well, and thank goodness that is happening. That is part of the plan as well.

I am glad that for once the Hon. Member, who is nodding her head, recognizes that federal leadership is bringing the kinds of results which we always said it could.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA—BAD FAITH BARGAINING DECISION

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. Last September the Public Service Alliance of Canada, on behalf of the Education Group which includes 2,300 language teachers, agreed to a settlement. They agreed to ratify it and then they bargained in bad faith, as was recently ruled by the Public Service Staff Relations Board.

This PSAC action is a disgrace and a betrayal of the collective bargaining process. I want to know what the Minister and the Government intend to do to resolve this outstanding matter on behalf of the language teachers who do not have a contract at this time.

**Hon. Pat Carney (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the decision by the Public Service Staff Relations Board is important because it does point out that the integrity of the entire bargaining process is at stake. It was very important that the PSSRB found bad faith bargaining on the part of the union in the case of this particular group.

With regard to what we are going to do, the Hon. Member knows that we are ready to listen to any constructive proposals put forward at this time. We are ready to resume negotiations at any time according to the provisions of the law governing labour relations.

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[Translation]

## DAY CARE

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PARTICIPATION IN CREATION OF SPACES—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. He is no doubt aware that two days ago, the Province of Quebec submitted a request to his Department to create 60,000 day-care spaces in the Province of Quebec. He also knows perfectly that the Province of Ontario has already planned for 30,000 new spaces to expand its existing system. Could the Minister give the House the assurance today that these spaces will receive full federal funding?

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee the Hon. Member, as I have right along, that the federal plan, along with the co-operation we are getting from the provinces, and the 200,000 quality spaces that we have projected in our plan will be delivered.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, in other words the federal Government has slammed the door on the needs of millions of