

Oral Questions

I have to remind the hon. member that we believe that the capital gains exemption and benefits to the business community are appropriate measures to encourage investment in business. The capital gains tax, which the hon. member is adamantly opposed to, is a measure that encourages investment and encourages risk-taking. This party and this government are going to continue to support those measures.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly this government was not prepared to make choices in terms of creating jobs, but preferred to make a choice to keep the tax loopholes there for the rich.

[Translation]

The main tax relief contained in the Budget will give six times as much money to people who earn \$100,000 as it does to people who earn only \$30,000. Why introduce a tax measure that will only make the rich richer? Is that fair and equitable?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would read the budget, she would learn that some 500,000 new jobs will be created by the end of this year. In the period 1984-88, they laughed when we said we would create 1 million new jobs and we created 1.5 million, and we will do it again. We will do it the proper way, not by adding to the burden of taxation and the burden of the deficit.

• (1430)

In this budget we cut spending, we cut taxes, and we cut the deficit. We are going to create a positive environment for investment and for job creation not only for today but indeed in the future.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise one of the promises the government has made on several occasions. The minister today is making another promise to the unemployed. What the unemployed would like is for the minister to do something and get some jobs going in this country.

Today the Minister of National Health and Welfare is quoted as saying: "I have the privilege on day care as I

had with many other issues like VIA Rail to be the killer".

My question is for the Prime Minister. His party made an election promise of a national child care program. There was nothing in the budget to say that the national child care program was gone. Will the Prime Minister stand today in this House and tell Canadian people that his promise of a national child care program is dead?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like first to apologize for two words I used this morning.

Sometimes when I use English as a second language I can make a mistake and I did. Of course the word "privilege" in French can mean that it is an obligation. It is in that respect that I used it. On the word "killer", of course I never killed anybody and I would not kill anything either. That is what I meant when I used those words.

Second, in terms of day care or child care we had a choice as a government. I had the choice myself of dealing with the day care issue on one side or trying to deal with the major problem of child poverty which has been raised by the hon. member and many other members in the House.

This is in the action plan that we will unfold later in the month dealing with all the problems of children in society who face abuse, violence and so on.

Canadians have told me, when I talk about that, that instead of continuing the question of day care or child care, they would prefer in light of the resources we have if we deal with the question of children at risk and poverty, as the Minister of Finance mentioned yesterday, and this is what I will do.

I am not saying that child care is not important. It is one of the important issues for children, but first we have to look at all children who face abuse, violence, sexual abuse and so on, and help poor children as we said we would yesterday.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the minister's explanation rings a little hollow.

In the same interview he went on to say that the polls showed people were more concerned about children living in poverty and children whose mental and physical health is threatened by family violence and sexual abuse.