

*S. O. 21*

permit such overflights has been received. If anyone cares to read the agreement, they will see that it is contingent upon air transport of plutonium. In other words, the agreement specifically requires air transport.

Another very important concern is that the Government keeps saying it will only agree to the shipments if safe casks are to be used.

What is the Government's definition of safe? Currently, Canada officially adheres to the International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines. For the air transport of radioactive material, ICAO in turn defers to the International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines which require a cask capable of withstanding a 50 kilometres per hour impact test. We are concerned with air transport, not automobile transport. The Government must say no to plutonium overflights now.

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[Translation]

### THE ADMINISTRATION

#### GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, this morning Statistics Canada released the new unemployment figures in Canada. Unemployment is down to 8.2 per cent, the lowest level in six years.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly shows that the efforts made by our Government have brought concrete results, even if Opposition Parties have constantly and fiercely attacked our policies; they are using exactly the same approach with the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the months and years to come will do justice to this Government and its great Prime Minister. Deals such as the Meech Lake Accord and the Free Trade Agreement with the United States are historic and extremely profitable for Canadian men and women in general.

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### AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

#### LOCATION OF PROPOSED SPACE AGENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Last Fall, Mr. Speaker, the Government announced substantial cuts in the budget of the National Research Council as well as major capital expenditures in a new space agency in Canada. In an atmosphere of total confusion which we are getting accustomed to after three years, the Government announced that the space agency would become a major research instrument. At the same time, it was announced that Canada would not

participate in the greatest space research program, namely, the United States' Strategic Defense Initiative.

Since then, nothing! We do not know when or where the new space agency will be established; the promised research resources have not materialized; in short, utter "Mulronian" uncertainty and confusion prevail.

Will the new agency be based in Ottawa? Will it be based in Montreal? Will it be based partly in Ottawa and partly in Montreal? Nobody knows! As a matter of fact, the Minister himself has recognized to the media that the Prime Minister is the only one who knows. He has informed us that he has detailed information, and that it would be a political decision on the part of the Prime Minister.

What really concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is the admission by the Minister responsible for Science and Technology that this will be essentially a political decision of the Prime Minister. We do not need a political decision, but a decision based on good sense applying effectiveness and productivity criteria.

Unfortunately, since coming to power, this Government has not come up with many rational decisions. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion this space agency should be established in the National Capital region.

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● (1110)

[English]

### CHILD CARE

#### NATIONAL STRATEGY WELCOMED—TAX DEDUCTIONS AND CREDITS

**Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano):** Yesterday, I, like millions of Canadian parents, was delighted by the announcement of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) with respect to a new national strategy on child care.

The \$5.4 billion program over the next seven years will not only double the number of child care spaces in Canada, but will provide a much more realistic tax break for families with young children. Increasing the tax deduction to \$4,000 per child for receipted child care expenses for children six years of age and under, will really be a boon to millions of middle-income families across Canada. The \$200 a year refundable tax credit recognizes the role of parents who stay at home with their children or use informal baby sitting arrangements.

Most important, this new policy reinforces the rights of parents and provinces to choose the child care arrangement most suitable to their needs. The 75 per cent assistance for non-profit day care centres will certainly expand their activities and their spaces. The new arrangements with the provinces for cost sharing will help the provinces shape programs most suitable to the regions.