

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is one thing on which we do not have to wait for the fine print. The benefits to Canadian consumers as a result of the free trade agreement are tremendous. There is simply no losing whatever on the part of consumers. Any Member of the House concerned about consumers should be enthusiastically backing the agreement.

For example, in terms of low-income Canadians, the Economic Council of Canada has estimated—taking the most conservative of its estimates—that the average wage earner in Canada, based on 1983 average wages of \$23,000, will have an extra \$1,000 a year in spending power as a result of the free trade agreement. Everybody in the House should be applauding that.

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CHILD CARE

NATIONAL PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The Minister recently told the media that he is still studying the best way to present a child care proposal in the spirit of Meech Lake.

Will the Minister or will he not present the total child care plan at the First Ministers' meeting in November? Will he assure the House that these repeated delays in announcing a national child care program with objectives are not related to the Tory trade deal which allows U.S. rights of establishment for services in Canada? Does the Minister intend to allow profit-making U.S. child care chains to take over child care in Canada subsidized by Canadian taxpayers?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have heard various allegations about the trade agreement and the fears expressed, but this one is about as good as any I have heard.

Respecting child care, the Government of Canada is committed to a child care program in the matters that have been discussed in Cabinet.

Ms. Mitchell: When?

Mr. Epp (Provencher): They will be put forward to my counterparts in the provinces at the appropriate time. Let me assure the Hon. Member that the program has nothing to do with a trade deal. We need to generate income in order that social programs can not only survive but can be expanded. We need that kind of growth and wealth. I wish that the Member would once and for all learn that Government does not generate wealth but people do.

Privilege—Mr. Mazankowski

TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, will there be a child care program announced with national objectives this year?

Mr. Blaikie: Yes or no?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): As I said to the Member earlier, Mr. Speaker, the Government will announce it at the appropriate time. I am sure she is as anxious about it as most of us are.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED ACCUSATION BY MEMBER

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I think, during the course of the Question Period, I heard a comment from across the way coming from the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis). Either advertently, inadvertently or maliciously he accused me of accepting a kickback. If I heard that in error, I would accept the Hon. Member's explanation. If he did say it, I would hope that he might reconsider the statement and perhaps withdraw it.

I have known the Hon. Member for a long time. I hold him in very high regard. I respect him as a very skilled and aggressive debater. From time to time all of us tend to overstate our case. I certainly would not hold it against him if he made such a statement in an uncontrolled outburst. I hope that in the spirit of the traditions, dignity and decorum of this place he will do the honourable thing.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to make it very clear that I would not suggest for a moment that my hon. friend accepted any kickback. If there was any thought of saying that, I certainly would have withdrawn it. Again, there was never any intention and certainly I would not have suggested such a thing by my hon. friend.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields). Is it on the same point?

Mr. Shields: I would like to—

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the Hon. Member. The question that I have asked is, is it on the same point?

Mr. Shields: No, it is not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I distinctly