

*Canada Child Care Act*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there questions or comments? The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Calgary East.

**Mr. Kindy:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment. I listened with a great deal of attention to what the Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow) had to say. I wonder what her feeling is about the tax credit. It is only \$100 in the first year and \$200 in the next. For the mother who has to stay at home, I wonder if the Hon. Member would like to see this tax credit increased in order that more mothers can stay at home and so that they receive real justice for taking care of their children. Personally, I do not believe that day care is the solution to rearing a child. The Hon. Member is a nurse by training and has probably seen children who were abandoned, who have been in hospital and who did not get attention and love. This creates problems later in life.

I was surprised to hear the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) say that he wanted two million day care spaces in Canada. As a physician, I know that people who put children in day care come to the medical office and quite often the children are sick because they are in contact with other children in the day care centre. They get infections. This creates a problem for certain mothers and fathers because certain children cannot stay in day care because of this problem. They are too easily infected with disease. The best solution to this problem is to have the child at home with a caring mother or father, grandmother or grandfather taking care of the child. I think we should look at this solution. For this reason we should give child tax credits in a larger amount so that people who stay home can benefit not only from tax credits but from being with their children.

**Mrs. Sparrow:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the Hon. Member for Calgary East (Mr. Kindy) for his question. I have to agree with some of the statements he has made. When we compare the child tax credit to the tax deduction, I think there is an inequity. I would like to see more encouragement given to keeping a parent, whether it be the male or female parent, at home with the youngsters.

The child tax credit for the tax year 1988 is \$559. The Bill which is before us will increase that tax credit by \$100 per child under 18 years of age this year and by another \$100 next year so that there will be a \$200 increase, which will bring the tax credit up to \$759. Each person will have to equate this within their own tax bracket. I have to check the figures, but for an income of \$46,000 to \$48,000, or perhaps into the \$50,000 range, the child tax credit would be totally phased out. That compared to \$4,000 per child with receipts is what is unfair in here.

● (1730)

I have to say to my colleague that this is a start. Even the Minister has recognized that there are some areas where perhaps there is not fairness. I look forward to reviewing it once the program is implemented, and seeing if by raising the

child tax credit we could keep more moms and dads at home for their kids.

There are people who need child care facilities, and we know this. There are many single parents and many two-parent families who need double incomes to exist today, and we recognize that. The cost of raising children and the cost of housing is expensive. The inflation rate is between 3.9 and 4.1 per cent, depending on where one lives in the country. Therefore, it is very costly. The care of youngsters is up to the parents. I am quite willing to help those in need.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Calgary East referred to the New Democratic Party comparing the national defence policy and the \$8 billion for submarines and stating that that money should be spent on child care. It is very interesting that one compares eight to ten submarines with a child care program. If the truth were known, and as I understand it, the policy of the New Democratic Party with regard to defence is to scrap the eight to ten nuclear propelled submarines and build twelve conventional submarines. The New Democratic Party would also add an additional fleet of six frigates.

Members of the New Democratic Party have also stated publicly that they would discontinue defence cost sharing programs in order to design and build the defence equipment here in Canada. Their defence program will probably cost \$3 to \$6 billion more than ours. We are talking about \$8 billion over 25 years. It represents \$300,000 per year. This is not new money, and it is already budgeted for in the Budgets of the Government. I cannot believe how anyone can compare nuclear propelled submarines to a child care program.

This Government does not have tunnel vision. We do not look at one area, we look across Canada. We not only look at child care, but at post-secondary education, the agricultural department. Over the last four years we have spent \$8 billion in the area of agriculture. Look what we have done in the energy sector. If we do not have agriculture healthy, energy healthy, and manufacturing healthy, we will not be able to pay for anybody's program. We need a balanced government, and that is exactly what we have done. We have helped the energy sector, the agricultural sector, and we are moving in to help the people in Newfoundland to create more jobs. The Government believes in a whole and total Canada and every person that we can get out there working will be able to support our social programs.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I may be in a somewhat unique position in the House since I am a day care parent. I hope the Member for Calgary East (Mr. Kindy) might listen to what I have to say because I heard him make some disparaging remarks about children who are in day care. I consider it a rare privilege that my little boy is in day care on the Hill. He receives incredibly good care and has had a great educational opportunity. I wish to pay tribute to the professional staff of the day care that operates here, and also to pay tribute to a former Speaker, the Right Hon. Jeanne Sauvé, who was the initiator of that program. It demonstrates