

Canada Child Care Act

would like the Hon. Member to outline what a Liberal Government would see as national standards in its terminology. Would it include commercial day care as one of the goals that it would seek and, if so, why?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member has one minute to complete his questions or comments.

Mr. Gauthier: I did say that the CAP program was available and accessible to all Canadians, but it did have its faults.

Ms. Mitchell: Only low-income Canadians.

Mr. Gauthier: It was a program basically directed to those of low income and those who were in need. What we are talking about here is a two earner family which is in need of child care. In my speech I made it clear that, in my riding, I was talking about those people who, because of a changing society, have to cope with a two-earner family but with children who are in need of child care. That is indeed a problem we will have to answer. I did not say that CAP was the solution and the end-all to all of the problems. I know it was a solution at the time, but now we have to go beyond the CAP program. As a general response at that time I think that it was a good response.

As far as the other question is concerned as to where I stand, the Hon. Member can read my speech tomorrow. I am sure that she will have in there all the answers to her questions.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. On debate the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mrs. Bourgault).

● (2110)

[Translation]

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I also am pleased to take part in this debate this evening and to speak on child care on behalf of my constituents of Argenteuil—Papineau. I would like to remind certain Hon. Members that the national child care strategy must meet the needs both of urban and rural families, and of course native ones. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I represent a constituency that meets those three criteria because, as you know, my constituency includes the municipality of Oka, Kenesatake. There is a crying child care problem in Kenesatake.

Mr. Speaker, when I listen to the New Democratic Party and certain Liberals, including their critics, I am inclined to wonder if they understand the nature of rural Canada? I wonder, because if we were to rely on what we heard since the legislation was tabled, the need would be almost exclusively in urban centres. Do not worry about public, non-profit child care centres 100 per cent funded by the state, governments, without any financial accountability towards parents or users because the Government has money, we will pay for everything!

Mr. Speaker, in Argenteuil—Papineau this evening, I am sure that when we tell them: We will inject \$6,4 billion, I am

certain that to people in Argenteuil—Papineau this is a substantial, an exceptional amount. People in a rural constituency do not refer every day to billions of dollars. This is not a frequent occurrence.

But on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I hear some dreamers opposite speak of nationalizing child care services. Not to worry about money, Canadians have a lot of it, even if we are only a small number to pay for that—not to worry. We will find the money somewhere, and anyway we will get more taxes from Canadians. I wonder where they would get that money, but at any rate they are referring to nationalizing child care just as they are referring to nationalizing health care. As if those two were comparable!

I will speak in practical terms about what happened in Argenteuil—Papineau since we referred to the national strategy, since my citizens feel that from now on they will get increased help, of course with a contribution from Quebec. One example: There is a citizen in Morin Heights, Mrs. Berverley Mehamed, an extraordinary woman who created a private child care service in an area that is not exactly a fringe area because it is near Saint-Sauveur, in our beautiful Laurentians, but anyway she developed an exceptional child care centre that draws on the parents as well as brothers and sisters of the children who finish school at 4 p.m., as mentioned earlier by the Hon. Member for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin). This woman wishes to expand. She has already told me of a very remarkable project, and we were eagerly awaiting the introduction of this Bill as well as the accord signed with Quebec to see how she would be able to get the financial aid she needs to double the spaces in her day care centre. So, you see, in my riding, we already have projects in place.

Let me tell you about another project dear to me. Since we, the Conservative Government, have been in office, it is a well-known fact, recognized by all, that the economy is doing so well that the population of the Saint-Janvier area in Mirabel, a municipality known for its dramatic development, has become aware of the serious problem of day care. So, nowadays, Mr. Speaker, companies such as, to name a few, Bell Hélicoptère, Nationair, Transat, Canpak, the Mirabel town council, and so on, have been meeting with concerned citizens and day care directors to discuss the issue of day care centres in the workplace, an issue which concerns companies, parents, and governments alike, and not exclusively governments.

From now on, private firms will have to get involved financially in the creation of day care centres.

For the time being, we are waiting for the result of an application we have made to the Department of National Health and Welfare concerning a new Project Assistance Fund which is part of the national day care strategy to create in Saint-Janvier a unique day care centre in a working area which, I hope, will become a reality, in view of the interest shown so far by my constituents and the women working in these plans.