

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, the budget did not say that we will not inform Canadians. The budget said that we will look at the way we use advertising to keep Canadians informed.

I am amazed to hear from the member that he does not agree with all the phone calls we had at the Department of National Health and Welfare asking for more information in the form of child benefit packages that we could not provide that information.

The best way to do that was to advertise in newspapers. We first did it nationally. We will do it now regionally and even with the aboriginal newspapers to be sure that Canadians are aware of the good news.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, since the minister knows that under the present program family allowances are universal and that he mentions in his own advertisement that all family allowance cheques are going to include publicity, I fail to see why he has to spend another \$500,000 informing Canadians.

Statistics Canada, the government's own agency, admitted that we have 292 food banks in Canada and four out of ten Canadians using these food banks are children. Instead of buying ads perhaps the minister will consider buying food.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I have already answered that question, but for the instruction of my friend, I will repeat what I said.

Everybody agrees that we should not have food banks. But we know very well, and he knows very well, the reasons they are there. We have to deal with that. That is exactly what we are doing with the child benefit package. We are trying to provide more income for low income workers to be able to deal with that.

All members of this House should be trying to do their best so that we can cope with that in the future.

Once again, I will announce a major package for what we call children at risk and within that group we also have those children that he is talking about. Nobody in the world has the resources that the NDP has. In the

provinces where they are it is amazing to see that they do not cope with those kinds of problems either.

* * *

GOVERNMENT TRAVEL

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, my question is to the acting Minister of Supply and Services.

Last fall the government gave the lucrative government travel contract to Rider Travel rather than Marlin Travel. In so doing the computer reservation system for tickets was transferred from Canada to the United States to a subsidiary of American Airlines.

I want to ask the government why it transferred these high-tech computer jobs to the U.S.A.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, perhaps I could take that question on behalf of the Minister of Supply and Services.

As the hon. member knows, we have for some years now had a process of having the private sector arrange for travel for public servants and government travel. In the process we have saved Canadian taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

The specifics of what the hon. member is talking about will be looked into and I am sure the minister will get back to him.

[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, according to the *Canadian Travel Press Weekly*, every time a member of the House or an official uses Rider Travel, three dollars in royalties for the computer system go to the United States. What will the government do to repatriate this money and the jobs which it has exported to the United States?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, again as I indicated earlier, I will look into the particular accusations the hon. member has raised.

What the hon. member seems to be suggesting, in this area as in so many other areas, is that the option for Canada is to opt out of the world.