

ployment among women which is reducing the standard of living for women in Canada.

Mr. Valeri: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. I certainly concur that we are very committed to helping the status of women and certainly through a number of initiatives that we have come forward with we will certainly be doing that.

I have gone into my riding and talked on many occasions in high schools, encouraging young women to get involved in science and technology programs, indicating to them that this is the future. We need to rely on training and providing incentives to women to participate in science and technology and certainly to give them opportunities both in the private and public sector to display the skills they have.

Certainly the Liberal government is committed to providing opportunities for women both through this infrastructure and in all other areas.

Ms. McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, there are two different kinds of infrastructure. One is the physical infrastructure of roads and sewerage systems and so on which are very important to the development of Canada. There is another kind of infrastructure program and that is our social infrastructure.

I would like to ask the member about that aspect of infrastructure because his government said in its election promises that when growth in the economy reached 3 per cent it would institute a national child care program.

This would provide I am sure quality child care for many children who are without it in Canada. It would also provide a number of jobs for people working in that sector. Can the member comment on that given that growth in the economy is now projected to be over 3 per cent in this year.

Mr. Valeri: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the hon. member has read the red book and has read our commitments. Certainly as a Liberal Party we are going to meet our commitments.

The national child care program we are certainly committed to is outlined in the red book and that would be once the economy reaches 3 per cent. I understand that we would actually be initiating that one year after the growth in the economy.

We certainly do support the national child care program and we would be implementing this program one year after the economy reaches that 3 per cent growth.

Supply

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I know that a number of members still want to speak on several of these items that are left and that the time for debate will end in one hour. Therefore I would like to see if there is unanimous consent to cut the speeches to 10 minutes with no questions or comments from anyone, thus permitting more members on all sides of the House equally as per usual formula to get on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to put that proposition to the House and seek such consent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): The House has heard the suggestion of the government deputy whip. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: No.

• (2115)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): We are resuming debate on the amendment by the member for Fraser Valley West to Motion No. 2.

Mrs. Marlene Cowling (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to speak on full supply for the 1994-95 main estimates.

Many of us are participating in the consideration of the main estimates which are prepared in support of the government's appropriation bill for the first time. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize for members the significant features of the 1994-95 main estimates and to describe the relationship between these estimates and the government's expenditure plan which was presented in the February 1994 budget.

The 1994-95 main estimates set out details of \$160.7 billion of planned government spending. This represents a decrease of 0.2 per cent over the 1993-94 main estimates. It is important to note that almost 70 per cent of the \$160.7 billion has been authorized by Parliament through substantive legislation. These statutory expenditures in the amount of \$112.2 billion include the following: major federal government social transfers to Canadians, including old age security, guaranteed income supplements, spouse's allowance and unemployment insurance benefits, transfers to provinces under the fiscal equalization program, transfers to the provinces for health, post-secondary education and social assistance and public debt charges.

Therefore through these estimates the government is seeking Parliament's approval to spend \$48.6 billion for those programs which rely on annual appropriations. Planned expenditures for these voted programs represent a decrease of \$330 million or 0.7 per cent from 1993-94.

What is the relationship between these main estimates in the amount of \$160.7 billion and the total budgetary expenditure forecast in the amount of \$163.6 billion projected in the February 1994 budget? Allow me first to identify those items which