

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Monday, February 5, 2007

Child Care

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has failed to show leadership. Today, the Prime Minister received his report card from child care advocates and parents: Universal child care, F; Parent choice, D-; Honouring agreements, F. It says:

The [Prime Minister] uses scissors and words carelessly. He cut funds to child care and hasn't delivered promised new spaces.

When will the Prime Minister deliver the child care spaces he promised Canadian parents?

(1440)

Hon. Monte Solberg (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, we know there are vested interests out there who oppose choice in child care, but that does not represent the view of this government. The government is delivering choice in child care to 1.4 million families, representing 1.9 million children.

However, the real question is this. Where does the Liberal Party stand on the issue of the universal child benefit? On October 21, the leader of the Liberal Party said that he would take that away from parents. He would take choice away from Canadian parents.

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is no action, no plan, no leadership equals no choice and no spaces.

He has also failed first nations communities when it comes to child care. When the government cancelled Kelowna, it cut \$200 million from the children of first nations communities. Now things are so bad that the international aid group, Save the Children, which normally works in developing countries, has been called in to clean up the government's mess in first nations communities.

Why is the Prime Minister turning his back on the children of Canada?

Hon. Monte Solberg (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, this government has acted for all Canadians, including for aboriginals on reserves. The universal child care benefit goes to every family with children under the age of six. Our plan will deliver twice as much money for child care as the plan that was proposed by the Liberals.

However, the question is this. Is the member saying that she would do like her leader has said and take that money away from aboriginals on reserve? Is that their plan? Why does she not answer the question?

