

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Soon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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STATUS OF WOMEN

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Mr. Minister, in the Throne Speech you stated that your Ministers will seek to "further define" the concept of equal pay for work of equal value. Last August, however, during the Leaders' debate on women's issues, you stated, and I quote—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am reluctant to interrupt the Hon. Member, but the Hon. Member does have some parliamentary experience and knows how questions should be addressed.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am directing my question to the Prime Minister through you. Last August, during the Leaders' debate, the Prime Minister stated:

[Translation]

I believe it imperative for the Prime Minister and the new Government to give very clear instructions to the Treasury Board. The law is clear.

[English]

The Prime Minister said last August that the law is clear. I would like to know what has happened to cloud the Prime Minister's vision so much between August and November, that what was clear in August needs further definition in November? Why will the Prime Minister not move immediately on the changes he promised to all the women of Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for the point she has made, particularly in view of her sense of humour. In a television interview she referred to the Liberal opposition as the "Fabulous Forty".

Ms. Copps: It was the "Feisty Forty".

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, this Government stands committed to that pursuit. We hope to achieve full equality for women, and that shall be a principal hallmark of everything we do throughout our legislative life.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity, through you, to remind the Prime

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Minister of the comments he made last August, because not only did he say that the law is clear, he also said:

[Translation]

Of course, I will go further. I will make sure that this equality principle is adhered to by all those who are eager to do business with the federal government.

[English]

He said that he would apply the principle not only to the Government but to those companies that wanted to do business with the federal Government. Again, Mr. Speaker, what happened between August and November to change the Prime Minister's mind about the direct action he promised to the women of Canada? How does he expect the women of Canada to trust him when he changes his mind so frequently?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am a little perplexed by the indignation of the Hon. Member. I think that the program we set out to the Canadian people resulted in the election of an historic number of women to the Progressive Conservative Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: This, in turn, resulted in the appointment of an historic number of women to the Cabinet of a Progressive Conservative Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: This is an indication of the bona fides of this Government, and we plan to continue this kind of positive, forceful, vigorous action on behalf of the women of Canada, action which has been so badly lacking in the past.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, that was garbage.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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EXTERNAL AID

ETHIOPIA—GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs whom I would first like to thank for inviting representatives of the opposition Parties to accompany him to the funeral of Indira Gandhi and on his stopover in Addis Ababa. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River, reported on both to our caucus this morning.

My question does concern what Canada is doing about aid to the starving people of Ethiopia. It is not enough for the Minister to say, as he did earlier, that David MacDonald is looking after it. David MacDonald is co-ordinating it, not instigating it. Has the Government yet instigated a special fund drawn from new moneys, and not from transfers from other moneys in CIDA or elsewhere, for emergency aid and development in Ethiopia? In that connection, has the Minister