

Oral Questions

quo of yesterday prevented those women from taking advantage of retraining. What is the Government going to do about that? Obviously the changes the Minister referred to are not enough. According to his seatmate, they prevent women from retraining. What is the Government going to do to provide retraining to those women so they can get back into the work force and play a role as equals in the growth of Canada?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, it again strikes me as exceedingly strange that the Leader of the Opposition, who in the past has prided himself as being the great defender of federal-provincial jurisdiction, is not aware that in this very critical area we share jurisdiction. The provincial Governments have responsibility for providing basic education for their populations, and the federal Government, through its direct grants, through the National Training Act, provides for higher skilled training. By the way, to clarify the statement made by his colleague yesterday, we provided over a million additional hours of training this past year in the high-skill trades in order to provide for the kind of concentration and focus in those areas of training that are required to make a more productive economy.

This Government is taking action. We are concerned about the problems of women. That is why we have introduced a number of direct employment programs in which women participate up to 40 per cent or 50 per cent, unlike his Government which cancelled all the direct employment programs.

REQUEST FOR RULE CHANGES

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I would like the Minister to take his responsibility seriously. He knows that his Government designs the training programs. He further knows that his colleague said yesterday that the rules of the Liberal Government prevent women from being engaged in those training programs. The Liberal rules prevent women from being retrained. That is what the Minister of State said yesterday. What is the Liberal Government going to do to change the Liberal rules?

● (1440)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I would again ask the Leader of the Opposition, does he not understand what this Parliament has passed? He seems incapable of reading *Hansard* one day after it is printed. The Minister of State did not say that Liberal rules prevent women from taking training. What she was saying is that the lack of proper grounding in the vital areas of mathematics and science, during their primary and secondary school education, makes it more difficult for them.

What we have introduced in our National Training Act are the kinds of programs which will enable women to get the remedial training and the kind of counselling and guidance which will allow them access into our programs. I would be very glad to provide the Hon. Leader of the Opposition with

full information on that program so that he can bring himself up to date.

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PRIVACY

MISUSE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION STORED IN COMPUTERS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the protection of privacy now lags far behind available computer technology and that an unprecedented amount of information about Canadians using electronic banking, home shopping services, computerized home security services, and so on, will shortly rest in computer banks, will the Minister say whether he is giving consideration to ways of preventing misuse of that information? In particular, will he say whether the recommendations of the Privacy Commissioner are under active consideration?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I can indeed confirm that this is the case. As a result of the recommendation of the Privacy Commissioner last year that a new offence be created for the misuse of personal information, we have engaged in a very serious study of this issue. This is part of the general review of the criminal law process which is taking place. I hope to be in a position, perhaps even sometime later this year, to announce our policy in that respect.

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BROADCASTING

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. The Minister is aware that the CRTC has been asked to amend the broadcasting regulations to give the same protection to women as is accorded to members of racial and religious groups. It has also been asked to see that the same guidelines are applied to pay television as to radio and ordinary television broadcasting. If the CRTC will not act to prevent this kind of abuse, is the Minister prepared to introduce an amendment to the Broadcasting Act to see that Members of racial and religious groups as well as both sexes are protected against abuse?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the CRTC has very specific responsibilities under the Broadcasting Act. As the Hon. Member knows, these representations were made by her to Members on this side of the House and, obviously, to the CRTC only a few days ago. The concern of all Parliamentarians was conveyed to the CRTC by myself. I expect the CRTC is considering these matters at the moment and will be in a position to state its own position in the very near future.