

Oral Questions

Leader of the Opposition and supported by the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

To answer the hon. member's question, this is one of the matters we are now seeking to have clarified, that is, what acceptance will there be by the PLO of the legitimacy and the rights of whatever peacekeeping force is put in place, so that there will not be attempted incursions by the PLO who might disregard the peacekeeping forces. There is also the question of what is described as the so-called Arab peacekeeping force, the Syrians to the north of the red line on the Litani River. Once these matters are resolved, it will be easier to reach a final decision.

Mr. McKinnon: It takes a considerable length of time to get these questions through when the minister sees fit to indulge in political argument in the middle of his answers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinnon: Can the minister tell the House whether we are offering logistic troops, administrative troops and combat troops—the whole lot—if they want them, or whether we have restricted our offer to logistic troops only? At the same time, would the hon. gentleman undertake to come before parliament for approval of the Canadian contribution before troops are finally committed in this area?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, to be precise, we are not offering anything at the moment. All we have said is that we are prepared to make a contribution if it is deemed we have the capability to do so. Again, it is for the reasons the hon. gentleman outlined that we have adopted this stance. If, for example, our role is to be largely logistical, we would have to examine that request in light of the responsibilities we now have in Ismailia and on the Golan Heights. We could not substantially expand our logistical support beyond that at the present time.

One of the suggestions I have made, with the concurrence of my colleague, the Minister of National Defence—and one which the United Nations has accepted—is that the whole program be examined in light of an over-all theatre approach. In other words, there would be some co-ordination between the new force and those already in place on the Golan and in the Sinai. If that were to be done, it is quite possible the Canadian logistical capability might be of some value in that kind of context. Once again, I think it important to re-emphasize that the decision was made only yesterday. This is an enormously complex and precarious kind of situation, and we want to be very sure before making any long-term or permanent commitment.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

● (1427)

EMPLOYMENT**REPORTED UNDERREPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN CANADA
MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, whatever one might say about the questions which are being asked, the answers are certainly getting longer, if not better. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. He will recall that two weeks ago my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, asked whether he had received the report of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women which, among other things, indicated that women in Canada Manpower training programs are underrepresented in apprenticeship and skill training programs. At the same time, the report pointed out that sex stereotyping is still practised by Manpower centres in many parts of the country, so that women are underrepresented in courses for managerial and administrative positions. In light of that, has the minister in the last couple of weeks had a chance to read this important report and, if so, has he acted upon it, particularly with reference to these central concerns which are expressed?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first I should like to welcome back the leader of the New Democratic Party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cullen: I am pleased to see him looking so well. I might indicate, with tongue in cheek, that he might have got his hernia from carrying around the inflated statistics he throws at me every once in a while.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cullen: In more serious vein, I did in fact read the report referred to by the hon. member. The statistics are not quite in line with those we have in our department. In language and upgrading courses, the percentages of women were 54.6 per cent and 54.8 per cent. In basic training and skill development, we spent about \$123 million: about \$68 million of that was spent on women. In language courses, \$15 million of \$28 million was spent on women. In skill training, the figure was \$85 million of \$213 million. I agree with the statistics in the report with regard to the apprenticeship program, where we spent close to \$80 million but only about \$2.5 million on women.

I am not certain whether that is because women were not applying, or because they were taking the wrong attitude toward the apprenticeship program; but that area does warrant looking into.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, if the minister reads the report, he will find it was not because women were not applying for courses in these areas; it was because of the attitudes being taken by officials in terms of not encouraging