

Order adopted by the Liberals in 1981, the Order is still in effect today.

The threat of another October 1970 is still a possibility. The Government should protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Drummond (Mr. Guilbault).

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## EMPLOYMENT

### ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, the present Government recognizes the major role played by small businesses in innovative economic growth and job creation.

To promote the availability of capital for small businesses, the Government has announced a number of measures including the capital gains tax exemption, increased availability of capital from pension funds and registered retirement savings plans, and tax incentives for labour-sponsored venture capital funds.

The Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. McInnes) has set up a supplier awareness program to help small businesses acquire a larger share of public sector purchasing.

Small- and medium-sized businesses involved in research and development will receive a full and immediate refund of the tax credit which they earn on their first \$2 million of research and development.

Thanks to the changes in RRSPs announced in the Budget, private sector entrepreneurs will now be able to manoeuvre in order to plan for their retirement as adequately as other Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, small business is said to be responsible for most of the new jobs created in Canada in recent years. By trying to encourage small business, the present Government is helping to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

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## THE ECONOMY

### SITUATION IN QUEBEC

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Chambly):** Since the September 4, 1984 election, Mr. Speaker, Quebecers have witnessed a considerable improvement in their province's economic situation as a result of the new climate of co-operation which followed our predecessors' confrontation approach.

Last week Statistics Canada confirmed that our Government's economic renewal and job creation initiatives have given encouraging results. The Bank of Canada rate has

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dropped 3.53 per cent since the election and now stands at 8.35 per cent, the lowest in seven years. The 4 per cent inflation rate, practically unchanged in over a year, has created the most stable climate since 1971. Those figures show conclusively that, since we took office, Canadian men and women have been more confident in the future. That was the sentiment expressed to me by community groups of the riding of Chambly when we met recently.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, all such signs clearly show that, unlike those of our predecessors, our 1984 election campaign promises were not empty words. Once again our Government has lived up to its commitments.

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[English]

## CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

### EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM COMBAT DUTY

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, the right wing of the Tory Party has emitted its first scream against women in the Armed Forces. One Tory M.P. has said, "Certainly there are jobs that women can do but not in combat". Another has said that three of his brothers served in the trenches but "I certainly would not want my sister there". The point is that it is for the sister to decide. If equality means anything, women have the right to decide whether they go in the trenches or anywhere else.

The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Nielsen) has not even attempted to justify the current policy of excluding women from combat. We can only hope that the strident and Neanderthal right wing of the Tory Party will not carry the day and that the Government will move quickly to implement the recommendations of a parliamentary committee and make all trades and occupations in the Armed Forces open to women.

● (1415)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

### SITUATION IN MONTREAL AND EASTERN TOWNSHIPS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Employment and Immigration admitted she had no concrete plan to revive the industrial base of Montreal East. Does the Minister intend to convince her Government colleagues they should stop dragging their feet about the problems facing employees at Bombardier, Vickers and the Gulf refinery? Is she also going to convince