

## S.O. 22

Last month's construction starts were 29 per cent higher than in September 1984. The New Democratic Party will not even acknowledge it.

Mr. Speaker, investors have regained confidence, consumer spending is up, prices have levelled off, manufacturers' orders are on the rise, and the performance of our economy puts us ahead of our American neighbours.

We will continue to work because we were elected to improve the living conditions of Canadians. We will let the Opposition talk about phoney scandals and patronage abuse, for that is their negative approach and they should know better.

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[English]

## STATUS OF WOMEN

## RECIPIENTS OF PERSONS AWARDS

**Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, today, on the occasion of Persons Day, tribute is said to the five Alberta women who led the fight for women's recognition as persons in 1929.

Last night six contemporary Canadian women, who have dedicated their lives to the ideals espoused by the Alberta five, were honoured at Rideau Hall as the recipients of this year's Persons Awards.

They are: Grace Hartman, a founding member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women—Grace became the first woman president of a major Canadian union; Marguerite Bergeron-Tremblay, whose long-standing involvement in Le Cercle Des Fermières, La Fédération des Femmes du Québec, MATCH, and Amnesty International is evidence of her commitment to the betterment of women in Canada and around the world; Nazla Dane, a guiding force behind the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and its former president—Nazla was an early proponent of equal pay for work of equal value and of non-traditional careers for women; Gemma Pelletier Caron, long active in promoting the interests of Francophone women in New Brunswick, she founded La Fédération des Dames d'Acadie; Pearl Steen, who combined her involvement in the Vancouver community with 30 years of activity with the National Council of Women, including its national presidency; and Evelyn O'Bomaswin-Lamirance, a founding member and president of L'Association des Femmes Autochtones du Québec, who has worked tirelessly to promote the rights of native women.

These six remarkable Canadian women are worthy successors to the standard of strength and commitment set by Emily Murphy—

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise the Member that her time has expired. The Hon. Member for Outremont.

[Translation]

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## DEINDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, today on the anniversary of the Person Case, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the unconscionable manoeuvring by the Progressive Conservative Government against groups that are fighting de-indexation of family allowances.

Hearings by the Legislative Committee on Bill C-70 were to be held until November 22, but that has now been moved up to November 5. This is an obvious attempt to gag pressure groups by preventing them from coming or by limiting their preparation time.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Committee is refusing to hear comments by a pan-Canadian coalition against de-indexation of family allowances, which has now been established. This coalition consists of more than 80 groups including women's groups, unions, catholic parents, people working in daycare centres, and so forth. The Legislative Committee is ignoring the coalition and trying to give it as little hearing as possible. It is true that the Progressive Conservative Government was put in a difficult position by the de-indexing of Old Age Security pensions, and the parallel with family allowances is so obvious that my hon. colleagues opposite are running scared.

Let there be no mistake: Canadian men and women are not at all pleased with the Conservative Government's social policies. Neither the elderly nor women nor families appreciate them.

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● (1110)

## WOMEN

## STATUS OF WOMEN—SEARCH FOR EQUALITY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, 56 years ago, the Privy Council of Great Britain recognized Canadian women as persons. However, women have yet to achieve equality in Canada. There are still laws to be amended and programs to be set up before full equality of both sexes is achieved in our economy, in politics and the arts.

The courts have a role to play. Unfortunately, some judges are following the example of the Supreme Court of Canada which in 1929 decided that Canadian women were not persons. I am thinking of the discrimination against Justine Blainey, who was excluded from a hockey team, despite the support of her teammates and her coach, because an Ontario court decided that discrimination in sports was acceptable.