

### *Supply*

that have been published through the House of Commons, provincial Governments and private organizations, I am looking forward to hearing them again.

Pension reform is an important issue and it will be interesting to see how the Government responds to the task force recommendations. It will be interesting to see how the Conservative Party will respond to some of the input that we expect Canadians to give to the task force.

I approach the task force study in a somewhat cynical manner. We are aware of some of the underlying problems with pensions in Canada. We understand that the people most affected by low pensions are elderly women. Approximately 45 per cent of elderly women are dependent upon Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. That is a far higher percentage than men, who have had the opportunity during their working lives to have a stable job and contribute to private pension plans and the vesting provisions of those plans. As a result of their higher incomes, they have been able to contribute a significant amount of their salaries as compared to women in similar occupations. It will be interesting to see the Government's response to the task force recommendations because our Party believes that many of the decisions made by the Liberal Party are based on public consensus and Gallup polls. Their decisions are not based on the needs of elderly women and pensioners.

It will be interesting to see whether the Conservative Party will look at the pension schemes objectively and review the private pension plans in Canada which only cover about 12 per cent of the income of elderly people. Some of those employer-sponsored plans are partly public plans as well. It will be interesting to see whether those plans can be adjusted to respect working Canadians, whether they will be adjusted to give earlier vesting and be made more portable throughout the workplace. Pensions should be adjusted because women's income is low and the length of time that they work for one employer is less than that of males. Therefore, they find that when they reach retirement age they have inadequate income. They are faced with poverty income at the age of 65.

Since there is support from all Parties in the House, I suspect that the task force will make a proposal for finally getting a drop-out provision for child rearing in the pension plan. It will be interesting to see if we get complete agreement with many of the Provinces, particularly with Ontario which is currently blocking that pension reform.

Pornography on Pay TV is one issue that has annoyed all of us in the House. Our Party believes that there is almost unanimous opposition to the Playboy channel because of the way it depicts women, whether through violence or demeaning spectacles such as women clad in bikinis participating on relay teams. Apparently there is almost universal opposition to using our Pay TV channels for that purpose. However, we have been unable to convince the federal Government to enact legislation or put any pressure on the CRTC or the First Choice channel to remove that type of discriminatory and violent portrayal of women on Pay TV. I believe it is a reflection of the lack of

commitment on the part of the Government to deal with women's issues in any solid and constructive way.

I suggest that this motion points out some of the serious flaws in the federal Government's approach to women's issues. It points out some of the serious flaws as well, I would say, in the approach of some of the provincial Governments. To approach women's issues in a serious way and to allow Members of Parliament to deal with women's issues on a day-to-day basis through a parliamentary committee, such a motion could very well have been introduced in almost every provincial capital in Canada.

• (1150)

I suggest that the demands from the New Democratic Party over the last year and a half and, more recently, from the Conservative Party to have a parliamentary committee deal with women's issues is one way in which the Minister responsible for the status of women could give her commitment that the approach to women's issues would become an all-Party approach. It would then no longer be the domain of the governing Party who have been able to use these issues for publicity purposes and have really not come to grips with many of the problems concerning women that we have within our Canadian society. We have the problem of wife-battering, we have the problem of low pay for women, we have the problem of pension reform and the requirements for pension reform, yet we have a federal Government that simply would appear to be judging public opinion through Gallup polls and trying to develop some kind of consensus, rather than showing the leadership which is so urgently required.

Our Party, over the next six months, will be dealing with the information that we have gathered through 150 briefs and many meetings with women who are affected by Government edict and lack of opportunities. We hope to develop in Regina a consolidated policy on how this Party is going to deal with the issues that have been dealt with in this motion, issues which have been raised by hundreds and hundreds of women across Canada.

It is time we have some action on women's issues. It is time we had a parliamentary committee that could deal in a progressive way with meeting those problems head on, instead of having more and more studies asking what the problems are in Canadian society. It is time to have a Government committed to economic growth, committed to defeating the problems of unemployment rather than simply using unemployment for its own benefit and gain.

Until we have an industrial strategy and a full employment strategy, women are going to have problems trying to get into the work force; we are going to have trouble trying to provide training opportunities for women and other workers in our Canadian work force, and single parents without jobs, are going to have problems trying to raise children while depending on UIC or the welfare system. We are also going to have problems in our society with massive budget deficits, the lack of any attempt by this Government to put women to work, and