

Budget. It will reduce the tax rate on small business income, double the amount of guaranteed loans available under the Small Businesses Loans Act, and broaden the tax rules providing deductions for allowable business investment losses.

● (1210)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, today I tabled in the House the report of the Task Force on Child Care.

[*English*]

The important and comprehensive body of research the task force presented will be a valuable formulation to the public hearings of the parliamentary task force on child care. I expect it to be a useful guide in the ongoing discussions addressing Canada's child care needs. Finally, I believe the report will encourage public discussion and debate on child care and child care needs in this country. It is a much needed debate because child care is fundamentally linked to women's equality. It is fitting that an airing of such issues should be renewed on this, the eve of International Women's Day.

In conclusion, as we salute the women of Canada, indeed the women of the world, it is timely to recall the commitment made at the Halifax First Ministers' Conference chaired by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and attended by the Premiers, to bring front and centre next meeting scheduled for November for the economic equality and social justice issues as they relate to women.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise on the occasion of International Women's Day. I especially want to emphasize the work of women, both outside and inside the home, of all women whatever their income, and to tell them that this is their day and that it is also a good day for Canadian women to tell this Government that instead of simple statements of principle, they want this Government to keep all the nice promises we have been hearing since the 1984 elections.

I wish to stress the leadership given by the Canadian Government at the Nairobi Conference and point out that this Government should apply the same energy in implementing the principles discussed at this conference for the benefit of Canadian women. The Minister spoke about Bill C-62 on employment equity, and I simply want to remind the House that all the groups who appeared before the Parliamentary Committee said that they were dissatisfied with this Bill because it provides no objectives or quotas. Their recommendations were quite strong and, as an opposition Member, I must admit that I am certainly not satisfied with this Bill myself.

The percentage of women appointed to senior positions was also mentioned. The Prime Minister himself admitted publicly in November 1985 at the Halifax Conference that he was not satisfied with the percentage of women he had appointed.

### *Statements by Ministers*

There have been statements in all the newspapers. As recently as this week, there was a statement by the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) about the appointment of ten businessmen to a new board set up to help amateur sport, but no woman was included. Once more, statements of principle are very important, but we are still waiting for them to be implemented.

We have examined the new Divorce Act. It is true that there have been improvements. However, during the election campaign, we were told that a central agency would be established to collect alimony payments. We are still waiting for such an agency.

Then, there is the employment strategy. In this regard, I would like to speak about the needs of women. Employment programs are being set up, but they do not address the needs of women. A tremendous number of jobs are said to have been created for women; but those are part-time jobs. And also, to reduce unemployment where women are concerned, they are referred to a program that creates ghetto jobs in which there is no opportunity for promotion. Those women who are living on unemployment insurance benefits are the ones who have been living alone for months and cannot then rely on any assistance program.

Who looks after their children? How can they learn to make up a budget? I think that job creation is good for reducing unemployment for promoting publicity for children's programs but as far as women are concerned, I can assure you that it will not work unless assistance programs are established. With no reference of course to part-time jobs, because most of them are part-time jobs.

Concerning the philosophy of the Budget, we know that it was supposed to help the poorest people. The poorest people are women responsible for single-parent families. They number over 72 per cent in Canada, and their income is in the range of \$15,000 to \$20,000 and they have been hurt by the Budget. There are taxes on drugs, a 3 per cent tax and a one per cent tax. I think it is unfortunate that the Budget has not been of any assistance to those women.

Speaking of women entrepreneurs, yesterday there was a press conference with women entrepreneurs in the Gatineau Valley area. They all told us: "We have no idea how we are going to survive with the new Budget."

Also when referring to the discussions, the Minister has tabled a report on child care. I am quite happy to have that report. Certainly all this will help the new parliamentary Task Force on Child Care. But then again, this involves the spending of an extra \$1 million, and looking at the recommendations of the report that was tabled, I believe many of them could be implemented without having another task force on child care. The need is urgent. There are recommendations for the Government, recommendations that have to be implemented in 1986-87.