

*Supply*

to public education. That was part of the whole recommendation of the task force on micro-electronics. That, too, was incorporated in what government would do.

**Mr. Riis:** Why don't you answer my question?

**Miss MacDonald:** I said at the end that this whole thing had to be drawn together and the only group capable of doing it was government. He mentioned the fact that I said there were no biases. If he will read what I had to say, he will see that I said the microchip has no bias.

**Mr. Riis:** It is called technology. That is the technological change.

**Miss MacDonald:** Perhaps the Hon. Member would benefit by going, as I did, into one of the major research labs to try to find out what this is all about.

**Mr. Riis:** It didn't seem to do you much good, Flora.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** Order. I remind the Hon. Member that he can ask additional questions or comment, but he should not be interrupting while the Hon. Member is speaking.

**Mr. Ellis:** It is just the NDP, Mr. Speaker. They are always rude. You have to expect it.

**Miss MacDonald:** I said the great benefit is that the microchip itself does not stop during training to question whether you are a man or a woman, coloured or white, Roman Catholic or Sikh. It does not question those things. The chip eliminates all those prejudices and biases. If the people in control of the program do not recognize that that possibility is there to eliminate prejudice and bias, that will be a condemnation of the people, not of the technology.

**Mr. Riis:** Precisely the point.

**Miss MacDonald:** I am willing to bet that, given the opportunity, women can prove that in technology, where there are no biases, they have just as much capability of performing as do men. The NDP obviously have a different attitude toward what women can do.

**Ms. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, we had some very interesting general statements from the Hon. Member. I certainly would agree with the statements made by my colleague regarding clarification of what appeared to be conflicting statements. The Hon. Member also presented a position which was in direct contrast to the questions directed to me by her colleagues previously. I would appreciate if the Hon. Member would reread my remarks as well on the question of Luddites. The NDP has a very positive position with very specific proposals for action which would deal with this on behalf of women as well as men in Canada.

The Hon. Member has said that women can achieve equality in high-tech jobs. No one would disagree with the wishful thinking there. She has also stated that the microchip has no

value system; it is neutral. We certainly agree with that. However, there are people who control the microchip, people in charge of planning, and employers who hire people.

Would the Hon. Member tell the women of Canada what her Party would propose to guarantee to Canadian women that they will have equal opportunities in the work place, particularly in the field of micro-technology? Does she agree, for example—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** I am sorry, I must cut the Hon. Member short. This is only a 10-minute question and answer period. Both questions and responses have been very long. A short response from the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands.

• (1210)

**Miss MacDonald:** I am sure the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell) will remember that not very long ago she and I were on a platform together at a conference in Banff. I think she probably listened quite clearly at that time as I spelled out what the Conservative Party would do in this regard.

But clearly, with everything we have said, our critic for employment and immigration, myself and others in this Party have stressed the need for increased training and educational opportunities as far as the federal Government is concerned. Beyond that—and I have raised this question in the House time and again—we feel that government must take the lead in bringing together the other sectors of the economy to make sure that we do not treat this in the almost limited way it has been treated so far. When we talk about a revolution we must realize its magnitude, not simply talk about insignificant training projects such as are going on at the present time. That will never answer the question and we have said that on many occasions.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the authors of the motion being debated today belong to a Party that just two weeks ago accused itself of failing to evolve since the fifties. Their own Party was telling them their entire policy was still back in the fifties. They could therefore be expected to make a few blunders on the issue of technological change and ignore the progress made over the past years and the programs that have been or are being implemented to adjust our Canadian economy to the sweeping changes that modern science demands of industrial nations that want to stay ahead.

The motion introduced by the New Democratic Party refers to consultation with employees affected by technological change. Mr. Speaker, last weekend the Government of Canada officially announced it was establishing a Canadian Productivity Centre on which Ottawa will be spending \$27 million. The Centre will be administered by representatives of labour and industry, enabling both groups to consult and co-ordinate their activities with a view to helping Canadian industry adjust