

better rates as they become available to both consumers and businesses.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, I just read the shopping list. The rates are 12 per cent above prime. Only a Conservative would think that is proper.

[Translation]

Why does the government allow the chartered banks to bleed Canadian taxpayers with usurious credit card interest rates?

[English]

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the hon. member obviously cannot get it into his mind that people can, whether businesses or consumer, borrow money from their financial institutions at the lowest rates they have been for 18 years.

This is good news for consumers. This is good news for businesses. This is good news for Canadians and the Canadian economy. The hon. member should be applauding this government instead of standing up and posturing on statements he keeps making.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

He will recall that in 1982 male parliamentarians laughed when I stated that one in 10 men battered their wives. Although men in this House wear ribbons today, violence has escalated and we now learn that one in eight women are battered by their partners. This violence must end. The government must act now.

• (1150)

I want to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the government will lift the ceiling on the Canada Assistance Plan so that one in every two women will not be turned away from shelters and that they and their children will have the help they need.

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, I think my hon colleague is as aware as

other colleagues are that we are all working together to try to put an end to violence against women. It is not just one level of government that can decree it. It is going to require some fundamental changes in the attitudes so that women have equal respect in our society.

Just commenting on the final part of the hon. member's question, I am sure she is aware that it has been estimated that perhaps 25 per cent of \$1.5 billion of the transfer payments to provinces do, in effect, go to support a whole variety of services for women and their children who have been victims of violence. This is a very significant contribution.

As my colleague is also aware, the Canada Assistance Plan contributions continue to increase to all provinces and the limit of 5 per cent to the three most prosperous provinces is well above the expected inflation rate this year of only 2.6 per cent. Progress is being made and I am working with my provincial colleagues so that we can be sure that we get our priorities right, act in a concerted manner and that our moneys can be used as effectively as possible to end violence against women.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, this kind of complacency is pretty hard to take. The minister must know that violence against women is highest in the provinces where CAP has been capped and shelters are being closed. Not very many are being opened.

My supplementary is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration or the acting minister, as the case may be.

Visible minority women, immigrant women and domestic workers often suffer violence in silence because they are afraid of being deported, loss of employment and rejection by their family and community.

What steps will the Minister of Employment and Immigration take to ensure that women immigrants have full protection from violent situations, that they are fully informed of this so that their silence will end?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Madam Speaker, our colleague knows very well that we