

Act. The health minister, with his superficial family violence initiative, returned a mere drop to the bucket of social programs that his government has emptied.

Over the same 12 months some Liberals felt no shame about—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, but the hon. member's time has expired.

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BILL C-85

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, the government's bill to privatize airports weakens the government's committed policy on bilingualism.

In 1988, Parliament passed a new Official Languages Act which applied bilingualism to airports. Bill C-85 to privatize airports restricts the application of the 1988 Official Languages Act. It does not deal with concessionaires, equitable participation and the language of work.

When Air Canada was privatized, all the obligations of the Official Languages Act were applied to the privatized airline.

Why is it different for airports? Yesterday, the Commissioner of Official Languages recommended amendments to Bill C-85 to make it consistent with the Official Languages Act.

I urge the government to listen to the commissioner and support full bilingualism at our airports.

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[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, the theme for International Women's Day is "Together towards Equality". This theme stresses partnerships between all levels of government, non-government organizations, women's groups, the business world, schools and universities, unions and concerned individuals.

We agree that many problems remain to be overcome if women are to achieve true equality in all spheres of society.

Congratulations, Madam Speaker!

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

Just one week after the so-called recovery budget the job verdict is in, and it is a disaster. There are 222,000 people in the city of Montreal looking for work, 194,000 people in the city of Toronto looking for work, and 84,000 people in the city of Vancouver looking for work.

Isn't this human job loss an example of how this government's economic policies are a disaster?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Madam Speaker, I do not think anyone in this House enjoyed reading the statistics that came out this morning on unemployment. We more than anyone else want to see people back to work.

That is exactly why the Minister of Finance brought in a recovery budget. The recovery budget will lead us out of the economic problems we are experiencing today and lead us back to economic growth in the middle of this year.

There are some signs already that the economy is starting to turn around. The markets are extremely active, and they traditionally lead us out of a recessionary period by four or five months. Interest rates are down by some 4 per cent. In the hon. member's city, the city that she lives in, if she were reading her local paper lately, it is shown that the real estate activity has increased there, as in other areas of the country.

There are signs that we are seeing things turn around, and we will in fact later this year see a recovery.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, if the member wants to talk about the city I live in, I would like to have him speak to those 30,000 people this month who are looking for work on the streets of Hamilton. I would like to see him pick up this morning's paper and read that the steel industry's predictions for 1991 are