

not congratulated this Government for being the first one to accentuate employment equity and to set targets for the employment not only of women but also of the disabled, natives, and visible minority groups.

Yesterday we published a report called *On Target* which indicated that in the first three years of this very important program we increased the number of women in the scientific and professional groups. It is reflected in the report that the increase was from 5,305 in 1985 to 5,580 in 1988. I think that should answer the Hon. Member's concern.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, that is what boasting does in refusing to deal with the fact that the numbers will be dropping back toward the levels they were in 1985. That is outrageous, Madam Minister.

REPRESENTATION OF VISIBLE MINORITIES

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same Minister who knows very well that visible minorities are very seriously under represented in the Public Service, representing perhaps 3 per cent of the Public Service by her own figures, less than half of their proportion in the Canadian population.

How can the Minister reconcile the Government's supposed commitment to multiculturalism with a paltry 4.2 per cent increase in the numbers of persons from visible minorities who will be employed in the federal Public Service by 1991? At that kind of rate of increase, Mr. Speaker, it will take until the middle of the next century to achieve fair representation for visible minorities.

Hon. Pat Carney (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that our efforts to increase the employment of women, minority groups, the disabled, and natives are outrageous. They are without precedent in the history of any previous Government. We are the first ones to bring in a commitment to employment equity and we have delivered, as yesterday's report shows.

The Hon. Member should be aware that, of course, there may be a downsizing in this group as the Member suggests because we are devolving certain aspects of employment to the territorial Governments and to Indian bands, where nurses and teachers will be affected. That will be because their jobs are being devolved to other agencies. The Hon. Member should take that into account.

In terms of the other issues he raises, I suggest he both read the *On Target* report and the targets that we have set for the next three years. The Hon. Member should be aware that this Government has spent in excess of \$30 million in order to ensure that special measures for employment equity are both in place and enforced.

Oral Questions

ABORTION

PLANNED USE OF BRAIN TISSUE FROM ABORTED FETUSES

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As the Minister knows, researchers at Halifax Dalhousie University plan to use brain tissue from aborted fetuses for transplantation, a practice that I am sure most Canadians will find clearly unacceptable and morally repugnant.

The U.S. Government in a move to stop fetal tissue transplants is refusing federal funds to any institution that carries out medical research with fetuses. Can the Minister assure this House that there will be no federal funds awarded to any university, institution or organization which would try to carry out this despicable practice?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I too read the news reports with great alarm. I think that human life either in utero or in vitro, which is induced for experimental purposes, is both ethnically and morally unacceptable and wrong.

That does not relate, for example, to the spontaneous abortions and the medical and ethical procedures relating to organ harvesting and cadavers. There is also a very strong medical difference with respect to the fact that other options could not be used.

I say, as the Minister of National Health, that while there is review for any federal funding of medical research, this Minister will not approve such a procedure.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. There has been a definite deterioration in the morale of the Public Service of Canada under this Government and there has been a total lack of constructive dialogue between the duly elected representatives of the Public Service of Canada and the Treasury Board.

Today, regardless of what the Minister says, we find that in the science and professional job cuts female public servants have been the hardest hit.

Why has the President of the Treasury Board chosen not to meet with representatives of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada despite their many requests to do so over the past several months? Is the Minister prepared to commit herself to a meeting without further delay to discuss issues of pressing concern to its members and representatives?