

Supply

propaganda of the Department of Employment and Immigration. However, I recommend that he read the proceedings of the Task Force on Employment Opportunities for the '80s. Officials of the Department of Employment and Immigration and other Departments testified at the hearings. The task force travelled the country, met the people and made over 200 recommendations on what should be done. Most of them have not been implemented. It carefully drew out the difference in jurisdictions, federal and provincial.

Members of the Government recite a litany of federal problems, but I sit here and say tokenism, tokenism, tokenism. Small amounts of money are made available to very few people in programs designed to get the maximum media exposure and the maximum public relations coverage but do nothing about the problems.

One of the programs mentioned by Liberals was Outreach. As the task force travelled the country—four Liberals, two Conservatives and one NDP—it saw that this was an excellent program but, Mr. Speaker, a year and a half later it is smaller, less well funded and is not being used. That is because the Government was not getting the credit for it. It was a private sector program operated by private agencies with Government help. But the Government could not brag about the program because civil servants were not involved.

We find that the low cost, effective programs are being cut out and replaced by higher profile, public relation gimmicks that do not help the people find jobs.

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Hon. Member a question about the jurisdictional responsibilities raised by the Hon. Member for Gaspé (Mr. Cyr). Under the National Training Act that was introduced last year, the federal Government has authority to inaugurate these very vital retraining programs that we are talking about. Has the Hon. Member seen any sign of that being done in any part of the country he has visited in recent weeks or months?

Mr. Hawkes: No, I have not. I participated in drawing up the legislative framework as I was a Member of the Committee. It was a reasonable framework and could be helpful.

Earlier today, the Minister responsible for the status of women tried to leave the House with the impression that no one in the Provinces has any concern for women. There are women's bureaus and Ministers responsible for women's issues in most Provinces, not just in Quebec.

It speaks to the difficulty in the country when a Minister of the Crown tries to mislead the House. There is then more difficulty working co-operatively with the provincial institutions, to try to solve the problems.

Mr. Althouse: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member outlined a catalogue of problems with regard to the non-equality of women in the marketplace. I understand that he did not finish his speech so he did not have time to outline solutions to the problems.

I have only a limited scope of observation of women's issues as I did not participate in that Committee, but I see what has been going on in my own Province. Since the change from and NDP to a Conservative Government, I note that many of the affirmative-action programs for women and native people that were in place, are being chopped, apparently as part of the "open for business" theme. Would the Hon. Member be prepared to tell the House how he and his Party propose to get men and women back on an equal footing in the marketplace? Are they going to propose new Affirmative Action Programs? Are they going to tell business that they must pay all female employees the same as male employees for equal work?

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I think there are three female Cabinet Ministers in the Government of Saskatchewan now. I do not think that the previous Government had so many.

In terms of an ultimate solution, that was available to Members of the House in December 1979 when there was a Clark Government and a Clark Cabinet. That was a group that believed that women were equal and it was acting on that assumption. This was borne out by the appointment of women to the posts of Secretary of State for External Affairs and High Commissioner to Great Britain, both high public profile positions. It was a true commitment to the principle of equality. You lead by example, Mr. Speaker: you lead by doing. I was proud to serve in a Government that made so much progress in such a short period of time, and I look forward to doing it again.

Mrs. Erola: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member referred to a reduction in Outreach Programs. I should like to ask him if he is aware how many Outreach Programs were in place when this Government came into office and how many are in place now under this Government. Is he aware of the figures?

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if the Minister were aware. It would be a nice surprise if she was aware of something in that Department.

In return, I would ask the Minister if there are as many today as there were a year ago when the all-Party committee said that there had to be a lot more. Today there are fewer than there were at the time we made the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The period for question and answers has expired.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Montreal-Mercier): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues on this side of the House in stating the very positive record of this Government since 1980 on questions relating to women in Canada. I believe my colleague spoke earlier of hypocrisy. I do not intend to be as hard as that on the Opposition, and I would rather call their attitude one of ignorance.

If we look at the record, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Government must base its actions on a set of basic laws such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in our Constitution. In fact, the Charter of Rights, with its equality