

of this government, in other words governor-in-council appointments, the record is exemplary, far better than any predecessors.

The briefing note I have from the minister in terms of the newspaper article about women being fired at a rate of twice that of men is that that statement is simply not accurate. Those figures do not stand up to the analysis that I have in my hand.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the same minister. Women in the Public Service do not believe and do not want more words from the minister. They want action. There is clearly discrimination and firing going on. Will the minister immediately, if there is any question about the figures, put lay-offs on hold until he can get to the bottom of the question and stop the victimization of women.

• (1140)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): I wonder why the hon. member feels it is necessary to be so accusatory and to not acknowledge that it was this government which brought forward that task force and asked the task force to do the study. It is this government which has shown, in terms of GIC appointments, its concern. By its actions it has demonstrated that it believes that women are every bit as capable as men of taking on these important decisions.

It is this government and the minister who said the recommendations of the task force are immediately before the Treasury Board and should be brought forward. I do not think it serves anybody's purpose to be indignant and to make false accusations about the motives of this government.

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REAL WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. The Secretary of State Department has funded and is considering funding again REAL Women. In their recent newsletter they promoted the view that feminist women are to blame for the Montreal massacre. They also promote intolerance to gays and

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other minorities in our society. In view of the cuts that this government has made to equality-seeking organizations, will the minister assure this House and will she assure Canadian women that this anti-equality organization will never again receive federal funding.

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say, although I haven't seen the letter, I have certainly read the newspaper reports on it. If those are accurate I am deeply offended by it, as I am sure all members of this House would be.

The Secretary of State is not here today. I understand there is an application that has not been responded to. I will be discussing this matter with him and bringing to his attention this most recent incident because as you know the criteria for funding under the women's program are for organizations that promote full equality for women.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, women in this country are feeling pain, and minority groups in this country are feeling pain. There is a lot of pain in Canada right now.

Will the minister urge the Secretary of State and her other cabinet colleagues to give some kind of guarantee that this organization that promotes intolerance in our society will never again get federal dollars?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to reiterate that the objectives of this government, in its policies and its programs, are to ensure that we work toward full equality for women so that there is economic equality, legal equality and social justice. Only organizations that promote those goals should even be considered for funding by this government. That would certainly be my view and I am sure the view of my colleagues.

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ETHIOPIA

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for External Relations and International Development. It concerns the current situation in Ethiopia which I know all Canadians are extremely concerned about, particularly with recent reports of the threat of famine to millions of people in the northern part of that country.