

*Statements by Ministers***REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, under the provision of Standing Order 99(2) of the House of Commons, I am pleased to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to the fourth report of the Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

Mr. Speaker: That is the remedy.

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LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 99(2) I have the pleasure of tabling the response of the Government of Canada, dated March 7, 1986, to the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration presented to the House on Thursday, November 7.

[*Translation*]

PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON DAY CARE

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration) and Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling in the House today, in both official languages, the March 7, 1986 Report of the Task Force on Child Care, pursuant to Standing Order 67.

[*Editor's Note: For above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*English*]

STATUS OF WOMEN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, to rise in the House on the eve of International Women's Day. We all know that International Women's Day began as a one-day protest of intolerable working conditions for women in the United States.

[*Translation*]

Today, this event has undergone considerable expansion and is celebrated throughout the world during a full week of activities.

[*English*]

International Women's Day is one illustration that the women's movement has become global in scope. The movement's character is such that it can embrace women of all cultures, races, and economic conditions. Women are bound together by their commonality of purpose, their movement toward equality, and their desire for an equal chance.

Nowhere was this world-wide sharing of goals more evident than at last year's World Conference of Women in Nairobi, Kenya. The Nairobi Conference was a landmark event. I am proud to say that Canada was instrumental in the development of a comprehensive blueprint of action to improve women's status to the end of this century. These strategies for the future are being used to guide our Canadian development of policies related to women and issues of concern to women. They include our employment equity legislation designed to improve the status of women in the workplace, and our efforts to position more women in decision-making positions in government, agencies, boards, and commissions.

The Government made a promise that in its first term of office appointments of women to federal boards and agencies would reach 30 per cent of all appointments made *en route* to the eventual goal of a full 50 per cent. I am pleased to say that we are not far short of that interim goal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLean: Improvements have been made to public and private pension plans. Further, new laws will facilitate the enforcement of support orders. There will be a legislated end to the decades of discrimination perpetrated against Indian women. The Canadian Jobs Strategy, for example, is now in place. It ensures that women have an equal chance in all federal training programs.

Since we took office in September, 1984, employment for women has increased by 306,000. Unemployment among women has decreased by 79,000. Fifty thousand young women have found jobs under Challenge 85.

[*Translation*]

These programs, as well as others we have developed, are tangible proof of the Government's commitment to creating conditions that will give Canadian women, on an equal footing with men, an opportunity to achieve their full economic potential.

[*English*]

That same philosophy, Mr. Speaker, underlies the Budget. While recognizing those most in need, its intention is to restore the nation's economic confidence through fiscal responsibility which will create an economic climate in which Canadian women, as well as men, can see their initiatives and efforts fairly and justly rewarded. Presently, women own one-third of Canada's small businesses and their numbers are growing. Women are responsible for starting two-thirds of Canada's new small businesses, and this is having an important effect on the Canadian economy. Women entrepreneurs will find evidence of the Government's support and encouragement in this