

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

PROVISIONS RESPECTING EQUALITY OF WOMEN

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, with only two years remaining before the equality sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms come into force, we are concerned with lack of action on the part of the Government in introducing amendments to bring statutes into line with equality provisions. There should be no further delay in repealing the infamous Section 12(I)(b) of the Indian Act, and reinstating the women who lost their status with their children.

The increased importance of the judiciary in our national life makes reform of the judicial appointment process ever more necessary. Qualifications apart from political connections should be the criteria, so that the bench would include members of all political Parties, and none.

The flagrant inability of Canadian courts to understand discrimination cases when the victims are women is unlikely to change while women are still passed over for judicial appointments. In the year since the Charter was signed, only 3.7 per cent of federal judicial appointments were of women, despite the very adequate numbers of qualified women available. With the increased power of the judiciary, greater public criticism and scrutiny are called for. Contempt of court legislation is needed that will ensure full public criticism.

This is the time also for Parliament to consider the reform or repeal of such reactionary, anachronistic statutes as the Official Secrets Act and the War Measures Act, in light of the principles of the Charter.

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[Translation]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—FUNDS FOR RESEARCH—GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of this House the situation of Canadair. There is a tendency to speak out against Crown Corporations when they have financial or other problems. However, since the situation of Canadair has implications in both fundamental and applied research, I would like the government and the House to support any action that will be taken in order to give some aid to Canadair, because this corporation operates in a field which involves very advanced technology and because there is still a good future in this high technology sector.

I would greatly appreciate, Madam Speaker, if this House could show full responsibility in this matter, given that it involves numerous jobs in the Montreal area and that the aircraft industry must stay in the area and must continue to be a leading industry in Canada. Even the Department of Employment and Immigration has put enormous emphasis on training in the high technology sector. I ask that this House,

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when a request for additional funding or other measures are put forward, give its fullest support to these initiatives.

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[English]

FINANCE

CALL FOR NEW INDUSTRIAL TAX CREDIT

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Madam Speaker, in preparation for the budget I would urge the Government to consider a 150 per cent tax credit for firms establishing new production facilities and employing people in areas suffering from regional disparities. This would not be a grant. It would, rather, allow deferral of taxes until the investment in facilities and labour for the first three years of operation, plus 50 per cent, is recovered.

• (1410)

I urge the Government to establish a series of duty-free ports in Saint John, Halifax, and Vancouver, where Canadian export firms can import components and, with Canadian workers using Canadian technology and materials, can assemble products for export to world markets. This has been done successfully in Singapore, Amsterdam, and 18 ports in the United States, among other areas.

I urge the Government to abolish the capital gains tax and encourage investment in the development of Canadian resources in order to create more jobs and taxpayers. I urge the Government to beef up the internship program, examine the 300 applications in New Brunswick now awaiting action, and extend to all Canadian universities the student employment assistance program which is operating successfully, but only at the universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, in the Minister's riding.

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RAILWAYS

CROWSNEST PASS RATE—DEPICTION OF NARROW GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE IN ADVERTISEMENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, on Saturday last, a four-page tabloid appeared in most of the daily newspapers advertising the Government's position to abolish the Crow rate. This four-page tabloid was a waste of the taxpayers' money and took a position against the Prairie farmers' interests. Not only was it a waste of the taxpayers' money and not only was it against the interests of the Prairie farmers, but I believe the advertisement itself showed how out of touch is this federal Government across the way.

For example, the locomotive shown on the front page of this tabloid is a locomotive from the White Pass and Yukon Railway, and it is one which has never hauled grain. It is a locomotive from a narrow gauge railway which could not even fit on a Prairie railway if they wanted to haul grain. Also, Madam Speaker, this railway was closed down last fall. It was