

not talk about any new provisions to deal with the problem and I suspect it is because there are none.

In fact, if the member's government had not so dramatically cut funding to women's organizations that advocate and bring to public attention these issues a couple of years ago, and had not continued to cut funding to those organizations, he might not be so surprised by what he is now hearing. It has been well known to women's organizations but unfortunately they have been robbed of the means to convey that information to public policymakers like the hon. member.

Since the debate today is on the budget and on women, I have a question I want to ask.

Can he and his government tell me and tell Canadian women how much of the spending in this budget goes to benefit women—and I don't mean child care and I don't mean pay equity—but over all, in all the hundreds of millions and billions of dollars this budget spends? How many of those dollars benefit women and how many benefit men?

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I want to step through some statistics. We are always hesitant to use too many statistics when we are speaking because it gets confusing for the average viewer who is trying to sort this out whether we are doing enough or not doing enough. But I want to go through a couple of statistics, if I may.

It goes back to 1986 when the government launched a \$23 million child sexual abuse initiative, followed up in 1988 by a broader \$40 million family violence initiative. This time last year we expanded that to a \$136 million initiative.

I do not want to play at the percentages, but when you are moving from \$23 million to \$136 million, that is somewhere close to a 700 per cent increase. I think it is important that we get that on the record.

The other thing that I want to get on the record is that the Department of Secretary of State has funded close to 400 individual projects for women as well as community projects. They have helped support non-profit organizations and sponsored many other initiatives for women.

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Those all have a dollar figure attached to them, and as I said, I am not going to step through all of those. But I think we have committed as much as reasonably possible, given the times.

I wish that the Canadian economy was growing the way it should be and that we did not have a mountain of debt over us. Perhaps if we did not, we could resolve this because a lot of these problems will take dollars to resolve them, no question about it. I do not think anyone would argue that. I just wish that our economy was so healthy that we could put the financial resources into those problem areas that I would like to see put into them. Given the capability of our economy and the Canadian people, I think we will find a very healthy and prosperous economy 12 months from now. We will continue to upgrade our programs and to put the kind of resources into them that we all want to see.

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I in the Liberal Party, as you have heard today, are extremely concerned about the government's budget and its failure to promote and protect the rights of Canadian women.

We know that women are particularly vulnerable to the draconian economic policies of this government. We know that most women have much lower incomes than men. We know that women make up a very large segment of the people living in poverty in this country. We know, for example, that more than 60 per cent of single mothers in Canada live in poverty. That is a shocking and shameful statistic. That kind of figure is a real embarrassment for a country which prides itself on its compassion and commitment to equality.

Knowing the situation, what kind of support did this government offer to Canadian women in its February budget? It offered absolutely nothing to help unemployed women get back in the work force. It abandoned its commitment to day care. It reneged on its commitment to pay equity for federal public servants. It cancelled the Court Challenges Program. It abandoned its commitment to the universal family allowance.

This budget has confirmed what many women have long suspected, that this government's commitment to equality for women is nothing more than empty symbol-