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always subjected to the decisions made by the Supreme Court of Canada following the implementation of the famous Charter of Rights and Freedoms that the Liberals left untouched.

I would like to ask a question of the member for Mount Royal. I approve of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but I often wonder if it would not be possible to amend this famous charter in order to avoid excessive recourse to the courts, thus preventing the government from acting selectively when a certain group has a particular need. The member is aware that 50 year old people now want to have access to the Program for Older Worker Adjustment, just like the 55 year olds. If the government agreed, you would then say: Why not make the 45 year old workers eligible? Surely, the government must impose some limits.

When the Liberals were in power, they set up a scientific research program that was a national scandal, a fraud of \$1 billion through a program that had been decided by the former finance minister of the Liberal government. Just imagine if the government had that one billion dollars. Programs such as Canada Works, and all the others; the tap was open. The Liberals had money and there was no problem. We got here in 1984 and we inherited that legacy. Of course you inherit serious problems in times of recession. It is very nice to make statements of principle and to try to make political capital on the backs of children and women in difficulty, but what is our capacity as a nation to pay? The Liberals from the other side of the House never answered that question.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, it is a rotten thing for a member of this House, regardless of his party, to say that he or she does not like the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The hon. member is not pleased that we made changes, that we gave Canada a Charter of Rights and Freedoms to protect the most needy, a charter that gave them the opportunity to present their case and seek justice before the courts. This is really a sad, lousy and unacceptable attitude.

Also, regarding the needs of the most needy, a choice was made by the minister of National Health and Welfare, who said that he was the killer of two important programs: one in the transport sector, and now this one

which was aimed at providing day-care services to families.

When you govern, you have the opportunity to make political decisions. It is sad to see that the political decisions made by this government were to help the rich; now the gap between the rich and the poor has become totally unacceptable. If this government, through its policies, was not able to choose another option, it is truly time for Canadians to do what is necessary to change this government. That is what we need: a change of government.

If the government had wanted to do so, it would have made cuts in office personnel, those people that eat out of the public trough, and then it would really have been able to eliminate the advertisement and the publicity surrounding all its projects to try to fool the public. Indeed, this government is really trying to deceive Canadians.

There are political decisions to be made, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the program that helps me and the needy to go before the courts, as well as older and younger women, mothers, and especially children who live in poverty. None of these groups have been served by this government and its new budget which abuses the public.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments have now ended. Debate.

[English]

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak on this very, very important issue, the government's commitment to the equality of women. I am pleased because I believe the government has repeatedly shown its commitment to improving the position of women in Canadian society. It has shown determination in addressing issues which are of concern to women and which hinder the advancement of women. Of course, more could always be done and we are working on doing more.

• (1250)

In no area is this more evident than in the area of the issue of violence against women. This is not just a recent concern of the federal government. This government has been working hard to understand this issue since the early 1980s, to develop and to implement effective