

As Members of Parliament we have an awesome power to do good or bad. In this case the two Members put their political interests above the personal interests of the two female peace officers. Women in the workplace have enough problems without MPs adding to the load. I am sure our colleagues will do the honourable thing and issue an apology, as well as a letter of explanation to the Commissioner.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR
RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Mr. Speaker: May I advise Members—

Ms. Copps: The Solicitor General should stop interfering with the system of justice.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Shhh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

May I advise Hon. Members, of the presence in alphabetical order of the presence in our gallery today of the Minister for Resources and Energy of Australia, Senator Gareth Evans.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CHINESE MINISTER OF PHYSICAL
CULTURE AND SPORTS

Mr. Speaker: As well may I advise of the presence of the Minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission of the People's Republic of China, the Hon. Li Menghua.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EMPLOYMENT

VANCOUVER FOOD BANK EMPLOYMENT GRANTS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Last week her Department cut off grants to the Vancouver Food Bank which will affect 10 full-time employees. Since food banks in several cities, together with other charitable organizations, are dealing directly with the sick and needy, why would her Department choose to cut off the food bank at this time?

Oral Questions

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the programs in which my Department is engaged are now directed toward the training of people for long-term employment. We are making very real contribution to the way in which people will be able to take advantage of the job development and job-creation programs, and in employment growth in our country. It is for that reason I was pleased to see that in British Columbia the number of new jobs created in the last month increased substantially.

EFFECT OF NEW PROGRAMS ON CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, that answer is not going to impress the thousands of people who have to line up at food banks to feed their families, I tell you that.

The Minister has changed the rules. That threatens the future of thousands of charitable organizations dealing with the sick and needy. Her bureaucracy is now insisting that charitable organizations like the Vancouver Food Bank fire their existing employees and hire new ones so they can qualify under her program. Would she look into it because it is a mess?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the way these new programs are developing. I can tell the Hon. Member that in British Columbia some 1,650 new job training and job-creation projects have been created this year. Some 7,200 are now involved in these projects which will give them new opportunities for the future. This involves the expenditure of some \$56 million this year which has already been allocated. I feel that in doing this we have not only supported those projects directly involved in the training of people in co-operation with the private sector, but 70 per cent of them are operating in co-operation with community organizations which are dedicated to helping individuals.

● (1425)

[Translation]

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS—SUBSIDIES—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the Montreal area alone, 500 community organizations have let the Minister know they have been "cut" by her department. They have no more funds. I will put the question directly to the Minister once again. Why should these charitable organizations have to fire their experienced employees? Why should they have to hire new staff to be eligible for her Department's subsidies? Why the confusion?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as I explained to the Leader of the Opposition, 70 per cent of the projects already approved in the Province of Quebec are sponsored by community organiza-