

working hours. I even think that this last problem is disappearing gradually and that our efforts should be aimed at modernizing the equipment and coming to grips with the latest technology. Speaking of the latest technology, we in the Outaouais region are still lagging behind the technological breakthrough. That is why I made it a point during the election campaign to tell the people that I would make sure that the Outaouais residents, French- and English-speaking alike, will very soon be part of that technological breakthrough.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words about social justice, as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. The role of women in all spheres of Canadian society and the equality which they rightfully claim are indeed the most significant development in recent years. True equality between men and women stems from economic equality. That is why I decided to join the Progressive Conservative Party in the first place. I came to the conclusion that, without economic equality, women can dream all they want about social equality, but they will never achieve it.

● (1730)

I knew that there can not possibly be economic equality unless Canada's economy is strong, and that the government in office must have the courage to make the necessary changes to spur the kind of economic growth which I, as a woman, as well as my sisters and my grandchildren—I have a son, so perhaps I will have granddaughters some day—need if ever we are to have that equality. This is why I believe that the efforts already made by our Government and by our Prime Minister, a true leader, are not only valuable, but essential to ensure women's equality.

Indeed, you will be asked to consider a number of important legislative measures, including removal of the discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act, certain amendments to the Divorce Act, and measures to control pornography and sexually abusive broadcasting.

It is also time to recognize the responsibility we all share for those of our fellow-citizens who suffer from physical and mental disabilities and this is why the throne speech also gave priority to this issue.

In addition, there will be a comprehensive overhaul of the Canadian pension system, particularly such matters as portability, vesting, survivors' benefits and pension coverage of women. These are very complex issues which require consideration if we want economic progress for women. As we all know, an astounding proportion, something like 60 percent, of women over age 65 live below the poverty line. Many of these women find themselves in that situation either because they have spent their lives bringing up their children and taking care of their husbands or because they have held jobs which provided no pensions or only a very meager one. If we want equality for women, it is therefore essential to overhaul our

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pension system. It is also essential for men because our society has changed. There is now much more mobility than before, and we must have even more because workers have to go where the jobs are and Canadians must be able to move anywhere in Canada, wherever job opportunities are, because it would be sheer deception on our part if we were to believe that a country as vast and diversified as ours could one day be evenly and equally developed. Mobility is therefore essential, and without pension portability, we cannot have the necessary flexibility to guarantee that unemployment will be eliminated or at least reduced to a rate which our society can absorb thanks to temporary assistance programs.

Canada owes much to those who have dedicated themselves to cultural, artistic and athletic endeavour. The throne speech says that the Government will address itself to this issue. However, it must be understood that we are in the middle of an economic crisis and that we are trying to give a new economic direction to our country. Unfortunately, priorities must be set and areas such as culture, the arts and athletics may not receive as much attention at the beginning of our mandate as unemployment and job creation. This is normal because we really must pay more attention to the jobless, many of whom are now on welfare, than to other matters; even though these issues, such as culture, arts, fitness and competition, are very important to us, we shall have to wait a while before we can find the necessary funds to provide assistance in these areas. On the other hand, there is a lot we can do which does not require grants or enormous amounts of money. For instance, we can review the tax system to make sure that artists are not penalized because of their way of life which is different from that of people who work for wages.

There is much to do if we are to make existing rules more flexible and simplify the tax system.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand).

[*English*]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of her remarks in commenting on the Speech from the Throne the Hon. Member repeated what many Members, as well as the Leader of her Party, have stated, that it was not possible to put forward in the Speech from the Throne the many items which were promised during the election campaign, because after September 4 they found that the finances of the Government were in such a terrible state. The Hon. Member used the argument that the cupboard was bare. My question to her is very simple and straightforward. Is she not aware that during the election campaign her Leader and many Conservative candidates said that the country was in a terrible financial situation? As a matter of fact, they said that the deficit was between \$36 billion and \$37 billion. Despite the fact that they said the deficit was going to be between \$36 billion and \$37