

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister can say all he wants about the right of veto issue, but if he wants to be serious, does he admit that he is unable to deliver the goods precisely because of the opposition of Clyde Wells and Roy Romanow, which is preventing him from getting the required unanimous approval of the other provinces?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** The hon. member should blame René Lévesque, who, with the leaders of the other eight provinces, imposed this formula on the federal government. It is true that unanimity is required. We were against this. Still, it was the Quebec government led by René Lévesque which imposed this amending formula, and now he is saying that it will be difficult. I agree that it will be difficult, because of the mistakes you have made in the past. Quebecers, however, will not let you make other mistakes when the referendum is held on October 30.

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[English]

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

**Mr. Jack Frazer (Saanich—Gulf Islands, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, we have learned that Canadian taxpayers contributed over \$300,000 for advertising in a special edition of *Homemakers* magazine.

Ruth Cardinal, public affairs director for the Department of National Defence, defended DND's participation because it will encourage recruiting in the Canadian forces, this even though the average age of readers of *Homemakers* is 42 and the forces are downsizing.

How can the minister possibly justify such Cadillac advertising when the defence department budget has been slashed and thousands of military and civilian jobs are disappearing?

**Mr. Fred Mifflin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question.

If his question is do we have a recruiting policy in the Canadian forces, the answer is yes. If his question is do we have procedures in place for recruiting, the answer is yes. If his question is do we have a policy where we actually advertise in reputable magazines, the answer is yes. If his question is do we have a policy to recruit women for the Canadian forces, the answer is yes. The answers are yes, yes, yes and yes.

I want to reinforce to the House that the government, unlike the third party, has a policy of equal opportunity for men and women.

• (1140)

**Mr. Jack Frazer (Saanich—Gulf Islands, Ref.):** The average cost of an advertisement in *Homemakers* is \$26,000, not \$300,000.

The documents also show that Ms. Cardinal received the idea from Alex Morrison, president of the Pearson Peacekeeping College, who also sits on the board of directors for the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies. I remind the minister that the institute receives almost \$100,000 a year in grants from the Department of National Defence. As well, Sally Armstrong, editor of *Homemakers* magazine, and Duncan de Chastelain, son of the Chief of Defence Staff, also sit on the board.

Can the Minister of National Defence spell conflict of interest? Can he explain why his department is engaging in such obvious objectionable cronyism?

**Mr. Fred Mifflin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered the question. Perhaps I can answer it in another way, with a different emphasis.

Do we have a credible policy?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Mr. Mifflin:** The answer is yes.

Do we have credible procedure?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Mr. Mifflin:** The answer is yes.

Do we have a credible magazine?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Mr. Mifflin:** This magazine enjoys the widest circulation among women in Canada. Three million women read that magazine.

Do we have a credible policy with respect to recruiting women?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**Mr. Mifflin:** Yes. Again: yes, credibility; yes, credibility; yes, credibility; yes, credibility.

The problem with the third party is it has trouble with the word credibility; it just does not comprehend it.

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[Translation]

#### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In a brochure sent to all Quebecers by the director general of elections in Quebec, the no committee states, and I quote: "—the government of Quebec must control its areas of responsibility". What this really means is that Ottawa must stop using its spending power to interfere in Quebec's areas of jurisdiction.