

S.O. 21

ployment among women has gone down 1.9 per cent since the election, from 12 to 10.1 per cent, whereas it actually went up 3.4 per cent under the previous Government, from 8.6 to 12 per cent; there are 80,000 fewer women without jobs, whereas there were 243,000 more under the Liberal

That is what we call significant progress, Mr. Speaker, and the situation will continue to improve over the years thanks to the unequalled leadership of the men and women of the PC caucus.

* * *

● (1105)

[English]

MULTICULTURALISM

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the Multicultural Minister has made it clear that he wishes to alter the policy of multiculturalism radically to a more pro business mode and has declared that some organizations are going to be cut out. There has been absolutely no consultation on this shift but, moreover, such a change would run counter to the spirit and development of this policy since 1971.

The Minister's slogan of "multiculturalism means business" is reflective of the Tories' perverse tendency to view everything in business dollars and cents. The promotion and retention of our Canadian culture cannot afford such regressive and narrow thinking. There are thousands of multicultural organizations which are serving the Canadian community well and honourably, and they deserve continued support and encouragement.

I urge the Minister to restore the country's confidence immediately in a true multicultural program by abandoning his ill-advised strategy. The Minister should become a genuine advocate for the constituency he is supposed to represent and defend in cabinet and in Government.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY—FORTHCOMING VISIT TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, Anatoly Shcharansky was released two months ago today on February 11, 1986. We learned this week that he and his wife Avital will visit the United States next month and will meet with President Reagan.

We understand that the Soviets have threatened to halt even the current mere trickle of Jewish emigration if the

Shcharanskys indulge in anti-Soviet statements. Notwithstanding this threat, Anatoly has said he will not submit to this type of blackmail.

We hope and pray that Anatoly and Avital will visit Canada and meet our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and their thousands of friends across this land. Anatoly's victorious battle for the cause of Soviet Jewry, both refuseniks and prisoners of conscience, helps to sustain all of us as we march toward greater victories in the war against the Soviets' violations of human rights.

* * *

ENERGY

GASOLINE EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I found out that we refine 550,000 barrels a day of gasoline in Canada. In February 50,000 barrels of refined gasoline was exported to the United States. In other words, we are exporting refined Canadian gasoline to the United States which is then sold cheaper in the U.S. than it is in Canada.

I found out as well that the Canadian independent retailers cannot buy this cheap gasoline in Canada so they go to the United States. In February they imported 10,000 barrels of refined gasoline a day. The independent retailers did a loop, if you like. What kind of energy policy is that, Mr. Speaker, when independents have to go to the United States to buy the cheap gasoline they cannot buy in Canada? That is a crazy energy policy.

What we are seeing is a failure. We have the worst of all possible worlds. Canadian motorists are paying more than Americans for gasoline, and Canadian producers, especially in the Province of Alberta, are getting killed by the Western Accord.

* * *

[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Charles-Eugène Marin (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, the good news keeps coming in, for the greater benefit of Canadians.

Yesterday, the Bank of Canada rate dropped nearly one per cent. This was the biggest drop in a long time.

Mr. Speaker, let us recall that under the previous Government, the bank rate reached a record high.

Today, under the Conservative Government:

—Interest rates on five-year mortgages have gone down 3.25 points, representing a saving of \$108 per month on a \$50,000