

S. O. 31

Rural families lack accessible, affordable and flexible child care and stress counselling services. Battered women have no where to turn for help.

The farm financial situation has created a greater need for social support services. This has placed an even greater stress on the inadequate level of services currently provided. Yet the Conservative government and the Liberals before them have ignored the urgent needs of rural women.

In fact the recent federal budget cut financial support for transition houses, abuse counselling, child care, education and medicare. These cuts come at a time when rural women need these services the most.

• (1110)

I call on this government to provide adequate and stable funding to ensure rural women and their families have the support they need. I call on this government to treat rural women with the respect they deserve.

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[*Translation*]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Madam Speaker, today thousands of women the world over are celebrating International Women's Day.

I wish to emphasize the commitment of our government to promoting women's equality in our society. The Department of the Secretary of State, which is responsible for women's issues, provides annual funding for more than 800 volunteer organizations whose activities are aimed at improving living conditions for women. A host of projects to counter family violence have been initiated. Each project helps bring women another step closer to economic, social and legal equality.

To ensure that Canadian women have the full equal status to which they are entitled, we must continue to work in partnership with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, women's groups, community organizations, the private sector and the labour unions.

I would like to stress the exceptional work done by Canadian women who, by their efforts, are helping to promote the status of women.

Today, March 8, I would ask you all to join me in congratulating the women of Canada and their sisters throughout the world.

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[*English*]

CSIS

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Madam Speaker, I was disappointed to see the government cave in to CSIS by not adopting any of the parliamentary review committee's major recommendations.

All Canadians know is that CSIS will spend \$213 million. They do not know if it is on people, cars, airplanes or tape recorders. Parliamentary oversight would have provided the necessary controls over expenditures, as well as the secret operations of CSIS.

Ron Atkey, a Conservative and former chairman of the Security Intelligence Review Committee said:

It also seems clear that the government wanted to avoid at any cost a commitment to introduce legislative changes.

How convenient for CSIS which never really wanted to limit itself to investigating terrorism and espionage. And wasn't this just super for the communications security establishment, that huge vacuum cleaner in the sky which has the frightening capacity to invade the privacy of Canadians in a variety of ways, but which has no legal mandate and which is not accountable to anyone—

This government must explain to Canadians "why".

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Does International Women's Day mean anything more this year than it did 12 months ago, Madam Speaker? Absolutely.

Over those 12 months vocal protest halted this government's attempt to recriminalize abortion services and to sap the support of women's centres across Canada. Women celebrate those victories today.

Over the same 12 months, however, our Prime Minister refused to remember the Montreal massacre officially or to answer calls for a royal commission on violence against women.

The justice minister sidelined her own gun control bill. The status of women minister said that her government will not strengthen the toothless Employment Equity