

Presence in Gallery

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, with respect to the price of oil in Canada, the policy is well known. For imported oil and new oil the price is based on the international price. For old oil it is 75 per cent of the international price. Everything is based on the fluctuations in the international market, and the prices will have to be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Broadbent: I take it that means there will be a direct relationship between the decline in OPEC prices and the decline in prices to Canadian consumers and industry.

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THE ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): My last question is for the Minister of Finance. His predecessor abandoned the Liberal commitment to an industrial strategy in the fall of 1981 when he put all his fiscal expectations into the OPEC basket anticipating revenue increases in Canada virtually exclusively being dependent upon oil price hikes by OPEC. We have now seen the disaster of that miscalculation, the disaster of abandoning the commitment that was made to an industrial strategy.

In the forthcoming budget will the Minister assure the House that this mistake will not be repeated, that we will not continue to lose the thousands of jobs and suffer the loss of revenue that came from that OPEC miscalculation, and will he live up to the 1980 election promise made by the Prime Minister and give to this country, at long last, the industrial strategy that we need?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I cannot agree with the statement by the Leader of the New Democratic Party as it applies to my predecessor. In the November 1981 budget, my predecessor did not base his entire economic strategy on a given projection of oil prices. As far as the contents of my upcoming budget are concerned, I would ask the Leader of the New Democratic Party to be patient, and I am sure that when the budget is brought down, he will be pleased with what is in the budget and will support it wholeheartedly.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF YUKON MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HON. CLARKE ASHLEY

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of the Hon. Clarke Ashley who is the Minister of Justice in the Yukon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INCREASE IN WOMEN'S UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday the Minister responsible for the Status of Women stated in this House that it was her view, and I quote, "that the unemployment figures for women have not risen substantially". I am sure the Minister is aware that last year the unemployment rate for women went up 41 per cent, the highest since the Depression of the thirties. Does the Minister agree with his colleague, and is that unemployment rate unacceptable to the Government?

● (1430)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, it is my reading of *Hansard* that the Minister of State responsible for the Status of Women did not say that it was acceptable. She simply pointed out to the Members of the Opposition that, in fact, the rate of unemployment for women has not risen as dramatically or as drastically as in other groups. It has remained relatively stable. As we have pointed out in this House many times, the fact that there are high rates of unemployment is unacceptable to this Government and that is why we are working very hard to change this.

RETRAINING OF WOMEN

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, if the Minister again consults *Hansard* he will see that the quote is clear. It says:

—the unemployment figures for women have not risen substantially.

That is actually the quote. The Minister will also recall that recently there was a report from Heather Menzies with respect to "CHIPS" and "Future Work for Women". Ms. Menzies in that report indicated, by the way, that by the end of the decade we would have close to a million women unemployed unless we paid attention to our training programs. In the face of that, the Minister of State responsible for the Status of Women said yesterday:

Many unemployed women can't learn new skills because they aren't educated enough to be retrained—

Is it the view of the Government that these women cannot be retrained, or are we again being treated to more uninformed and insensitive remarks from the Minister responsible for the status of women?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, I should like to clarify that statement and elaborate on it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Erola: From my conversations with a great many people, including the head of the task force, Dr. Margaret Fulton, and all of those very much involved in the retraining of