

Oral Questions

As a woman I look at those jobs and I do not see them being created by this government. It is time for a change.

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MARY PITAWANAKWAT

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, a Canadian human rights tribunal ruled in favour of Mary Pitawanakwat in her racial and sexual harassment case against the Secretary of State. However, the tribunal blamed her for part of the abuse and did not award her much compensation.

It has been established that her superiors at the Secretary of State office dealing with aboriginal programs made comments such as "Indians are savages," and made jokes about being scalped.

Ms. Pitawanakwat, an aboriginal woman, was fired seven years ago. Since then her superiors whom the tribunal found grossly negligent have been promoted. There is something very wrong in this case.

I urge the government to ensure that the Public Service does not reward racism and punish the victims and that an independent system of choosing tribunal members who are fully reflective of the Canadian population is implemented immediately.

stress, pressure and exhaustion for women in this country.

How can this government easily find close to \$6 billion for unnecessary, unwanted helicopters and yet renege on its commitment for a proper child care strategy to help the families of Canada?

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, today indeed is International Women's Day and a day when we celebrate the advancements women have made in this country and the work we are doing all around the world to help women reach equality.

In fact some very positive and good signs women have to look at are their increasing numbers in the work force, their increasing role in management and their increasing presence in every area of public life.

Some of the issues women are concerned about today relate both to education and increasing their enrolment in many of the areas of science and technology and the balance of work and family. In that area the federal government plays a role. The provincial governments play a primary role, but employers also play a role in ensuring that their policies are compatible and enable women to participate effectively and equally in the work force throughout this country.

• (1420)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CHILD CARE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

The government's printing presses today have been busy rolling out releases extolling the progress made by women which shows only that the public relations office of the Tory dynasty is much more effective than its actual policies.

The real important document is a Statistics Canada report which shows that while women are increasingly making more of a contribution to the economy, programs supporting families are falling substantially behind. According to the Vanier Institute this is causing increased

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that was an answer to my question so I will ask a supplementary.

[Translation]

The hon. member for Rosedale, a distinguished member of this House and the Conservative government, said that recent cutbacks in aid to Africa were stupid. These programs provide assistance that is directed mainly to women and children.

The Prime Minister promised more aid in Rio, but six months later, he is cutting back assistance to the poorest countries.

Why is the government spending money on helicopters and not on women and children in the Third World? Does the Prime Minister think he can maintain the Tory dynasty by forgetting Canadian women and women throughout the world?