

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in the case of a corporation as important as the CBC, as for all the corporations that come under the Government of Canada in one way or another, major decisions affecting them are always made in consultation and in view of the overall objectives and means of the government.

This government has been making tremendous efforts since 1984 for the CBC as for all others sectors. It is clear, however, that the CBC, with nearly 30 percent of its budget coming from commercial income, especially in television, is affected by the whole market as are all other television networks.

The communications critic should take a look at the statement made yesterday by the president of the Canadian Broadcasters Association, who stated, and I quote in the language the statement was made, i.e. English:

[English]

“Everybody is hurting because the market is more and more fragmented. Inevitably, CBC was going to have to change”, as we will.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Today, the minister said that she has the support of her colleagues in advancing the cause of the status of women. Is it the minister who asked for cutbacks to womens' centres? Is it the minister who asked for cutbacks to womens' publications? Is it the minister who asked for cutbacks to the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women? Is it the minister who asked her colleagues to cut back on these programs?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. colleague is aware of the difficult financial situation which this government finds itself in and its desire to reduce the deficit. Along with that, all departments of government obviously have had to provide some contribution to that.

I have ensured that when we discuss any reductions which have to take place with all of my colleagues, they must not affect women adversely or differentially. As we proceed with our programs, we must ensure that our support for women throughout the government, both in our laws and in our programs, is full in all areas of the government's mandate.

I can assure the hon. member of the Prime Minister's commitment to that and to the commitment of all my colleagues.

• (1450)

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Prime Minister. The women and men of Canada would like to hear that commitment from the Prime Minister himself. He speaks on many issues of concern to Canadians in this House.

Will the Prime Minister today give his commitment to fight violence against women by committing permanent funding for women's centres, and a royal commission on violence against women which will speak for the women of Canada? Will he do it now?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I respond simply because they are such serious questions. I am dismayed to hear the leader of the New Democratic Party refuse to accept as authoritative the voice of a woman speaking for the Government of Canada.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: The distinguished minister responsible for the status of women has the complete support of all of her colleagues in the government. That is why this government was able to increase to three the number of women on the Supreme Court of Canada, to increase by 300 per cent the number of women serving as deputy ministers, to increase from two to 14, the number of women serving as ambassadors, to increase from 37 to—

Ms. McLaughlin: What has that to do with women?

Mr. Mulroney: My hon. friend says, “What has that to do with women?”. —to increase from 37 to 81, the number of women serving in the federal judiciary, to increase, since 1984, the amounts contributed to the protection of women and children against violence and