

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

We also heard promises respecting women. We were told that women would be a priority when the Conservatives came into power. But just as far as appointments, are concerned, the figure of 20 per cent is hardly reached. Recently, two press releases were issued by the Prime Minister's Office: one was about the appointment of a ten-member board of directors in the sports field, and each and everyone of those appointees were men. So, one woman. On the same day, another press release told of the appointments of 17 people on some other, board of directors, and that time we were lucky: there was one woman among those 17 people. At that rate, I am afraid it will be rather difficult to meet the objectives of the Conservative Government, and I believe that if it wants to increase its credibility, it is going to have to act differently, especially with respect to expenditures.

Mrs. Bertrand: Mr. Speaker, I want to protest against a statement made a few minutes ago by the Hon. Member for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin), who said that the program for women rejoining the labour market developed by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) was a failure and a fiasco and that no money has been allocated under this program.

Mrs. Pépin: I said that the program was in difficulty.

Mrs. Bertrand: A few days ago, I announced in my constituency three programs for women rejoining the—

Mrs. Pépin: In your Conservative constituency.

Mrs. Bertrand:—labour market, for an amount of \$412,000, and this was the fifth such project. This is a program for which the Hon. Member for Outremont has asked to help women rejoin the labour market, and there was no such program before this year. Under the previous Government, there was no opportunity for these women to join or rejoin the labour market.

This is what I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that employment programs in the Department of Employment and Immigration were in jeopardy. I am willing to admit that I am glad the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi allocated some money to training programs for women. However, if you look at the entire Montreal area, there are programs there which had been in existence for years and were working well, but are now in trouble for lack of funds.

I should ask the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi to— I can give her the names of those groups, they are well known, but their programs were cut in April, without notice.

This is important. If she wants to look after women, she should check immediately and press for changes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) for a question or a comment, but it should be brief, there are barely two minutes left.

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, since it was alleged that few women had been appointed, I would like the Hon. Member for Outremont to compare, honestly and objectively, our record since we took office with a mission to introduce change, and the record of the previous Liberal Government. She can take whatever criteria she likes, whether it be the last year or the last five years. I would very much like to see an honest comparison between the appointments we made since our election in 1984 and the ones made before.

Mrs. Pépin: First of all, I would like to remind my colleague that the Liberal Government was responsible for appointing the first woman Speaker of the Senate, the first woman Speaker of the House, the first woman Governor General. The Conservative Government—

Mr. Blais: The 200 billion deficit—

Mrs. Pépin: We are talking about appointments, sir. The Conservative Government dismissed Mrs. Betty Hewes, who chaired the Canadian National, not because she was not efficient, but because she was a Liberal.

Mr. Blais: She said so herself.

Mrs. Pépin: I told the Prime Minister then that he had replaced Mrs. Hewes by a man, that I was willing to admit that a Conservative government could appoint Conservatives but that it could not replace a woman by a man, as his Government had done.

I think it is an insult to all Conservative women who are told they are not capable enough to hold that position. And I hope the women who belong to the Progressive Conservative Party will let the Government know that no more such appointments should be made.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Debate. The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne) for allowing me to speak now. I appreciate that.

Since the Hon. Member has talked about women and positions for them, I want to say that I am waiting for the day a woman will become Prime Minister of Canada. I am waiting for Mila. Perhaps it is Mila I am waiting for.

[*English*]

As I said, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne) for allowing me to make a few remarks on this Bill. I have to go to committee later tonight along with the Hon. Member who is from Calgary.

I want to make a few remarks because this Bill affects my home Province of British Columbia a great deal and it affects British Columbia at the worst possible time. I am told that there will be a cut-back of about \$5.6 billion over the next five years in the distribution of money to provincial Governments throughout Canada. The Province of British Columbia will