

● (1415)

STATUS OF WOMEN**REFUSAL OF COMPANY TO HIRE WOMEN FOR UNSKILLED JOBS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to raise an urgent matter concerning the rights of women to employment.

In view of the fact that the Fleet Aircraft Company of Fort Erie has consistently refused to hire women for unskilled jobs, and since the Fleet Company has benefited from federal government contracts in the past and is seeking future contracts related to the production of F-18 aircraft parts, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller):

That the federal government implement a policy of compulsory contract compliance and immediately require that Fleet Company sign an affirmative action agreement as a prerequisite for all federal contracts.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion can be put to the House only by unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**STATISTICS CANADA FIGURES ON UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CREATE JOBS AND REDUCE INFLATION**

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the Statistics Canada figures today on unemployment which reveal a sixth consecutive increase in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate—still 7.8 per cent this month as it was last month, even though it is the middle of the summer—and in view of the fact that the unadjusted June rate of 7.5 per cent is one-half of a per cent higher than last year, we have 887,000 unemployed, up 89,000 from this time last year, and in view of the uniformly poor economic forecasts of decreases in the growth of the gross national product, and the like, will the Prime Minister now tell the House—he has been 12 years in office; this is the twelfth year of his reign—what the government's policies and plans are to combat the high unemployment we now face and the high inflation which is still threatening?

In other words, when is he going to start battling these problems—

An hon. Member: Wrestling.

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie:—wrestling with these problems? When is he going to start bashing these problems, rather than just bashing the provinces?

[Translation]

Mr. Dennis Dawson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to note, with the hon. member, that the unemployment rate for June was maintained at 7.8 per cent and it is hoped that under the program announced at the beginning of May by the Minister of Employment and Immigration the unemployment rate this fall will quickly decline as soon as the program is put into effect.

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, we can see how seriously the Prime Minister treats these problems now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The death of this government is going to be "Sore Throat"; the Minister of Finance is absent. Would the Prime Minister answer this question, then? In the Speech from the Throne, the government said it would not decrease the deficit at the expense of loss of jobs and higher unemployment. Now the deficit has increased by \$3.7 billion, up to \$14.2 billion, and unemployment has also gone up since the deficit increased.

Would the Prime Minister explain what his policy is? To what level does he think the deficit must rise before we can have the full employment we would all like to see? Is that the policy? How high does he intend to raise the deficit this year to combat this increasing unemployment?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Madam Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration has just indicated to the hon. member that the unemployment rate has not increased and that there were 314,000 new jobs in June 1980 as compared with June 1979. This is specifically due to the steps taken by this government, so that the negative effects of the very difficult economic conditions will not be felt more strongly by those who find it most difficult to find employment, and by the poor. The figures provided by the parliamentary secretary reveal that the government has reluctantly opted for a slightly larger deficit than otherwise acceptable, but has enabled the economy to remain vigorous.

● (1420)

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!