

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have already explained that the Government of Canada will certainly meet its obligations in this regard in cooperation with the Government of the Province of Québec. Any request for assistance will come through that process, and will be honoured.

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**EXTERNAL AID**

## PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Acting Prime Minister and concerns a broken promise of the Conservative Party in 1984. Back then the Conservative Party, and I have the literature here with me, made a promise to "increase Canada's contribution to official development assistance to 0.7 per cent of GNP by 1990". In other words, it promised to increase our foreign aid budget to 0.7 per cent by 1990.

We have now heard from the Minister responsible that we will be hitting 0.5 per cent by 1990. Why has the Conservative Party broken its promise to the Canadian people? Why does the Government keep on breaking promises? How can we trust it and believe it when it is breaking promises like this?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, we know the hon. gentlemen opposite are feeling increasing tension as their time comes to a close.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Tell us about St. John's East again, John.

**Mr. Crosbie:** That is illustrated by the questions they are asking this morning. The fact is there are no promises unkept. The Government remains committed to the ODA target which is 0.50 per cent by 1991, and 0.60 per cent by 1995. We have confirmed that before. There has been significant growth in ODA. In 1987-88 over \$2.6 billion was spent by the Government on ODA.

Will the Member listen to this or is he going to talk to his Leader, who is also very nervous? Over \$2.6 billion was spent by the Government on ODA, an increase of about \$100 million, or 4.1 per cent over the previous year, and a 23 per cent increase—that is a twenty-three per cent increase—over the \$2.1 billion spent in 1984-85. Will the hon. gentleman now get up and apologize for what he said?

**Mr. Nystrom:** It is no wonder that, when the Rhinoceros Party looks at the Hon. Minister, it calls for "freedom of Screech" in Newfoundland.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for External Relations said recently that we

will hit the target of 0.7 per cent by the year 2000. In light of that, can the Minister explain why the Conservative Party promised in 1984 that we would reach the target of 0.7 per cent by the year 1990? Why this ten-year delay? Why this breach of a promise? Why did the Minister break a promise made to the people of this country back in 1984?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, this was all explained in detail, I recall, by our fantastic Minister of Finance several years ago when he dealt with this matter.

ODA performance fell a little short of the target in 1987-88.

**Mr. Broadbent:** A little short?

**Mr. Crosbie:** The question is why. It was because our GDP expanded at a greater rate than anyone could have anticipated as a result of the efforts of the Minister of Finance. We have introduced other measures to improve the quality of ODA. There is an all-grant program. There is increased untying of bilateral aid. We have also entered into major ODA debt forgiveness for the sub-Sahara African countries. The Hon. Member should be on his feet congratulating the Government on how it has improved the quality of our aid.

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● (1140)

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY**

## TABLING OF REPORT

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Employment or the Acting Prime Minister.

In 1986 the Government rammed through Parliament a weak employment equity Bill which we said would not do the job for women, minorities, and the disabled because it contained no sanctions. Now, according to Section 6 of that Bill, all employers were to report progress to the Minister by June 1, 1988, and according to Section 9 the Minister was to report to Parliament as soon as possible after June 1 and not later than the end of this year.

It is now three months past the June 1 date and the Minister has not tabled the report. Will the Minister explain why the report has not been tabled, and when does she intend to table the said report?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I don't need to be reminded of how vigorously members of the Liberal Party have opposed employment equity. I remember very well how they opposed it when the Bill was going through the House.

I want to tell the Hon. Member, in case he has not realized it, that the work flowing from that legislation has brought