

*Supply*

which we have a long way to go. We are going backwards instead of forwards in the whole area of child care which is so important to women and children.

The essential work of women in the home must be recognized. This is the year when we should commit ourselves to this recognition as a major goal. I will not go over the history of statements by the Minister responsible for the status of women, but many women who stay at home feel put down. It is very important to realize that women, despite great financial difficulty, often remain at home because they feel it is very important to be with their children when they are young. These women should have some recognition for doing this. I think it is important that the Government begin to think about some form of financial recognition. Perhaps Family Allowances should be increased even more and some of the amount go toward a benefits payment into the Canada Pension Plan.

As more and more people, particularly women, are forced into part-time work we must review the whole concept of a guaranteed income. This is long overdue. We know there will not be enough jobs to go around in the future. People will be under-employed in the traditional sense, if not completely unemployed. There are many things which they can still be doing. But we will have to look at the whole concept of a guaranteed income and how we can begin phasing in this kind of program, perhaps targeting first at some of the groups with the greatest need. Surely in the future computers and robots that are taking over our industries can be put to work to increase our Gross National Product to improve society rather than dehumanizing the work place. There are many community jobs in human services that are needed, particularly as our population is aging rapidly. There are many creative endeavours in which people can be involved for which they have skills and talents. These must be expanded in the future as our traditional jobs are phased out. Women who have been home makers have particular skills for human relations kinds of jobs and for management and community service. But they need pay just like the rest of us do.

On this subject I would like to refer the findings of the NDP Task Force on Older Women. This was a non-partisan task force. We held hearings in every Province last fall. We received 150 briefs and questionnaires from over 1,200 women from all across Canada, including the North. These were from women in their middle years as well as in the older age group. We found over and over again that this age group, the forgotten age group, women in their middle years and over, are facing double, if not triple, discrimination. They often are hidden from society, particularly if they live alone. Many often live in one room apartments and are alienated from society.

• (1750)

I expected that the needs of women on old age pensions would be the greatest. However, I found that although inadequate pensions for women is a major concern in every Province, there are many other issues that need our attention. Women who are single, divorced or widowed find their middle years the most difficult. Women who have spent their earlier

years raising children must be given priority for retraining and re-entry into the work force so that they can become self-sufficient and independent. Mature women have much to offer employers and should be credited for their human relations and management skills, as well as for their rich community experience.

Older women must not be content to work in job ghettos for low wages. They have a right to a decent pay and they must be given the opportunity to earn pension benefits for later years. Women must fight for equal rights on all fronts, particularly for the right to have liveable incomes in their later years.

In the time I have left I would like to review quickly the Government's record on equality for women. What we have seen is a lot of lip service paid by the Government and many studies, and we have listened to many platitudes. The situation is bad and getting worse. Women have been displaced from jobs and are facing unemployment now and in the future in deplorable numbers. They are being forced to take part-time work as an alternative. With respect to equal pay for work of equal value, even the Government itself has rolled back the pay increase decision it made, which was a very important precedent for clerks in the Public Service. It has denied the equal pay for work of equal value principle.

The Government's six and five restraint on wages, Family Allowances and pensions is another attack on women by the Government.

Affirmative Action does not even appear as one of the requirements written into contracts for job creation programs. The Cabinet has refused to instigate mandatory affirmative action and contract compliance.

We have heard much about high-tech training today. Women cannot get into many of these training programs. They are being denied the opportunity to acquire new skills and further experience.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) denies that poverty even exists. He does not recognize how many women are experiencing devastating poverty. Pension reform has again been put off in favour of a task force review because the Government refuses to act, particularly on behalf of women.

Special income support programs for single women in middle and later years are definitely needed. Even if pensions are reformed, nothing will be done for older women.

With respect to support for families, the Government will not even deal with the report on children that was brought to the House two years ago. Nothing is being done about making major tax reforms in favour of women and families.

While some action has been taken regarding violence against women as a result of the battered wives report, nothing really substantial has been done. There must be federal leadership for transition houses and other tangible programs for women. My colleagues have already talked about pornography as another form of violence.

We have implored the Government, and I would implore the Minister responsible for the status of women, to establish a