

*Oral Questions*

taking place to the women of this nation is a crime against humanity. We will continue to fight that vigorously wherever it is found.

We have been bringing forward additional programs for women and against violence, some \$40 million from the minister responsible at that time for a very active program.

We have other programming that is very effective for immigrant and visible minority women and for disabled women.

We have a very strong commitment and an excellent women's program. We will continue to be very supportive.

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance.

In his budget speech on Tuesday the Minister of Finance said:

We have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren.

• (1130)

The finance minister, if he really feels he has a responsibility for Canada's children, could he please explain why these children have been cut back for support for child care under the Canada Assistance Plan?

Will the minister come to my province? Will he come to British Columbia and explain to the more than 300,000 children in B.C., who cannot get basic child care services, why he has cut programs to the women and to the children of Canada?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, there is distortion there of the facts. The Canada Assistance Program for the province of British Columbia will be limited to a growth, an increase of 5 per cent.

If B.C. wants to spend more than a 5 per cent increase in any of those programs, we are asking them because of the stronger financial position that they are in to finance that increase over a 5 per cent growth rate. This is for a two-year period only to allow us to get over this hurdle of the deficit and the debt problem, after which time we will be reverting to the program as it stands now.

**Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State.

In the lead up to the budget, government leaks implied that most of the cuts were going to take place in concessions to business and in defence, the so-called defence dividend.

In fact, the cuts have hit native groups, women's groups and others who are least responsible for the deficit.

Will the minister explain why those groups, such as women's groups and native groups who have expressed the most concern about such things as the free trade act, the goods and services tax and injustice to women and Indians, are receiving the greatest burden of the most brutal cuts in his department, while those who were not such a thorn in the side to Conservative ideology are receiving no cuts at all?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** Madam Speaker, when that group across the way was in government, \$12 million was the women's program for that five-year period.

**Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** It is your responsibility. Answer the question.

**Mr. Weiner:** In this current mandate we will be getting and projecting over \$48 million. That is quadruple. That is more, not less. Every single program that we are involved in has seen increased growth, increased strength and increased vitality, and we will continue to work actively with those programs across the country.

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

In last year's throne speech the Prime Minister said: "This government remains committed to a national child care program." And recognized that "the increasing participation of women in the workforce underlines the need for initiatives that promote equality of opportunity in Canada's economic life."

Tuesday's budget not only cancelled some vital programs and services for women but also failed to introduce a national child care program. When will this government recognize that a national day care program is a priority initiative for equality of opportunity for women and quality of life for children?