

Oral Questions

human rights tribunal be established. No counter proposal was made.

Mr. Broadbent: You should take action.

Mr. Johnston: The conciliation board has made a specific proposal which has very far-reaching implications, with respect to the application of that act. Is the hon. member saying to us—

Mr. Broadbent: Get equality.

Mr. Johnston: Bear in mind, Madam Speaker, the point I made at the outset. We are talking about female dominated groups; we are not talking about women. I resent very much any accusation that I am a sexist. I would point out to the hon. member for Oshawa that I happen to be the father of four daughters and have a vested interest in—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, that was most touching. I happen to be the daughter of one—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Only a minister who seemed proud of the fact that he had four daughters could laugh at an obvious slip.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Your "slip" is showing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, I should like to say—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I hate to break up the good spirit of the House but we must have question period.

Mr. Broadbent: The point is clear, Madam Speaker, that the government believes in equality for women only if it does not cost the government a cent. That is the point. The minister made that clear in his answer. I would like him either to confirm or deny that. As I understood him, he said that it would cost money to provide equality. Is he saying to the women of Canada that they cannot expect equality from Liberals if it means the government must pay for it?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I was not laughing at the hon. member's "slip".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnston: I simply want to point out that the hon. member does not understand the issues at all. With respect to the proposals which we made, we have attempted to increase salaries in the female dominated groups in amounts averaging 13.8 per cent and 35 per cent in the first half of the agreement.

● (1430)

I think that was a very generous offer, Madam Speaker. It has nothing to do with the marketplace, I might add. It has to do with trying to resolve the difficulty of having subgroups and 22 pay zones with 13 levels of pay spread right across this country of which some are female dominated, namely three, with four being male dominated. It has nothing to do with the equality of women, because in each of these groups there is a very substantial male representation. In the largest group it is one third male who will benefit also from this increase; in another group it is 50 per cent male, and in the other group, as I mentioned, it is 35 male and 36 female. I can hardly see how the hon. member for Oshawa can make any accusation with respect to discrimination against women in the proposals we have made.

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INDUSTRY

RECOMMENDED REDEPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to have ladies go before gentlemen in the question period.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who has been "Olsonated". At page 37 of the Olson memorandum to the cabinet the major recommendation is this:

—the redeployment of Canada's human resources from areas or industries with low rates of productivity or returns into resource or resource-based and high productivity and high technology industries or areas.

That is the main recommendation; in other words, to shift people from areas with high unemployment to other areas. Is this the government's final solution to the unemployment problem in provinces such as Newfoundland, regionally deprived provinces with as high as 17.8 per cent unemployment? Is it the government's policy to move the people from there, whether they wish it or not?

Does this new policy explain the fact that DREE assistance has been cut back 50 per cent in Newfoundland? Is this the explanation for the cutback in transportation assistance? Is this why the minister would not give a grant to the St. John's dockyard when he gave \$40 million to Vancouver, grants to Halifax and Saint John, New Brunswick? Is this the minister's final solution to the problem of regional deprivation?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, first of all in the premise of my hon. friend's question he in effect admits that what he is quoting