

**Miss MacDonald:** In this case there were a number of discussions and consultations. I can tell the Hon. Member, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, that with this Bill there will be employment equity through the federally regulated private sector and in Crown corporations. It will be enforced through the mechanisms of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, as was recommended as one of the models by Judge Rosalie Abella.

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister a question.

Since every group that appeared before the committee and responded to Bill C-62, whether on behalf of the disabled, women, native people or visible minorities, said the Bill was inadequate, and since the Prime Minister said in a debate before the women of Canada in the election campaign of 1984 that he was earnestly committed to implementing equality, why does the Government not deliver on its promises now?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure the Hon. Member has been following all the committee hearings.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss MacDonald:** He might take a look at the number of people who have endorsed what the Government is doing. This will show we have an interest in providing equality in Canada. It is a one thing to sit and criticize but it is much better, I can tell the Hon. Member, to be able to do something about it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

• (1425)

**Mr. Broadbent:** Precisely, Mr. Speaker, and that is why the Prime Minister asked for a majority. We want him to do something about it now that he has the power.

**Some Hon. Members:** Right on.

#### GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my last supplementary question to the Prime Minister. I hope he will answer the women of Canada and others. When asked during the election campaign why he should be trusted, he responded by saying that he was earnestly committed to implementing the equality principle. All of the groups which appeared before the committee and discussed Bill C-62 said it was inadequate. Therefore, will the Prime Minister now act on his promise, change Bill C-62, and deliver the equality which he promised in the election campaign?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in the past 17 months both Budgets have substantially

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addressed fairness and equity for the disabled and new benefits have been provided. The Government has taken a number of initiatives with regard to women, including Bill C-62. The majority of the 580,000 new jobs which have been created have gone to women. That is an indication of fairness and equity. Job creation is now being helped by small business. Women are now becoming proprietors of the largest number of small businesses, thereby creating jobs. We want women to share in the growth and equality of opportunity in the country.

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#### THE BUDGET

##### NEWSPAPER REPORT OF CHANGES

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Finance confirm reports that at the eleventh hour he redesigned his Budget in order to get the deficit under \$30 billion in order to reduce interest rates, on the one hand, and stabilize the dollar, on the other?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is probably referring to the article in *The Toronto Star* today. I suggest he look past the headline. In that article I said that, as we saw interest rates rising, we felt it was very important to maintain the objective of getting the deficit below \$30 billion. We are very much committed to that. To reach that objective we introduced the \$500 million across-the-board spending cut.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. He goofed, Mr. Speaker. This Budget has created a real mess. Can he assure us that, within a week, he will table supplementary estimates to repair the damage done by his Budget?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I guess it is necessary to take the Hon. Member through the Budget process, step by step. We increased the interest rate assumption to 9.5 per cent. Because we did that, we increased the spending cuts to offset the increase in the interest rates which we were expecting. I have said on a number of occasions in the House that I stand by that 9.5 per cent interest rate assumption because we expect that interest rates will come down over time.

**Mr. Johnston:** How above the \$22.50?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I stand by the \$22.50 as well. The Member is referring to oil prices. This is a third question, Mr. Speaker, and I should be allowed to answer a third question.