

Supply

cannot say one thing and do another day in and day out and retain any credibility for your Party, for the Parliament and for the whole governing process in this nation.

The second major item of which the Minister said she was proud in terms of Government achievement was the provision of equal pay for work of equal value. She apologized for saying that the federal Government had the power to legislate and control over only 10 per cent of the work force. But she was proud of the progress made by the Government. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Treasury Board President of this Government, day in and day out, with all the legal resources of this Government, fought the general service workers through the court system when those general service workers wanted equal pay for work of equal value. This Government took them to court and said they could not have it. It was the court and not the Cabinet, not the backbenchers, which said the Government had to pay those general service workers equal pay for work of equal value. Thank heavens, Mr. Speaker, for the courts. And for a Minister of the Crown to stand in the House and try to take credit for what the court made the Government do is hypocrisy of the first order. This Government did not do that. The courts did it.

That is the record of this Government, Mr. Speaker. We get announcements about programs, and most of those programs are an insult to the women of this nation. They are token programs for the most part, and to stand in the House and brag about reports and conferences, is to help us all identify the fact that, yes, this Government funds talk-fests, this Government funds reports, but then this Government never acts, never does what those conferences and reports recommend.

I have in my possession, Sir, a letter from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) addressed to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, dated October 7, 1982, and that date is important, Mr. Speaker, because it deals with the report on violence in the family. I was a member of the Committee which drafted that report. We gave that report to Parliament in May, 1982, and here is a letter of October, 1982, six months later, in which the Minister is saying, "I have agreed to meet with the Minister responsible for the status of women, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General, to discuss your Committee's report." Six months later the Minister has agreed to a meeting to discuss these matters. "We intend to go into questions and proposals that may be raised by our provincial counterparts at future federal-provincial conferences".

There were a lot of recommendations in that report, Mr. Speaker, but essentially it reported a couple of things. One of them was that the nation was in a state of emergency on this issue. The problems are here now, they are real. The committee had spent some time in investigating these matters and action needs to be taken now. Here we have a Minister of the Crown writing back to the Committee Chairman six months later saying there was to be a meeting sometime in the indefinite future. Taxpayers' money was spent on that investigation which resulted in that report, but far too little has happened. It is almost one year later and I do not even know if that meeting

ever took place. As I look around the country, I know that the recommendations we made have not been implemented, whether that meeting took place or not. But when the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister responsible for the status of women say they are going to get together six months later to talk about it some day in the future, then that tells us as clearly as we ever want to hear that the purpose of reports and conferences on behalf of the Liberal Government is to give the appearance of action without the reality of action.

You must always look at what they say and contrast that with what they do. Never in the history of a nation have we had a Government which says so much and does so little of what it says. Never have we had a Government which says one thing and does another with so much consistency. If you look at the record, Mr. Speaker, it is a modern-day phenomenon that today young women have made remarkable progress in the law faculties of this country. In many cases they make up over 50 per cent of the enrolment. That is modern Canada. Women have broken through in the legal profession. Some day down the road they may dominate the legal profession.

• (1550)

Mr. Kilgour: They do dominate it.

Mr. Hawkes: But then you look at what this Government has done in the last 365 days. It has appointed 47 judges, and only two of them are women. Women are achieving parity and equality in this occupational field, except in the area over which the Government has control. In that area we have two females appointed out of 47, and those two are at the lowest level of court appointments.

Mr. Kilgour: Four per cent.

Mr. Hawkes: Fifty per cent of the people in law school, 4 per cent of the judicial appointments.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the Minister repeated a promise about Section 12(b)(1) of the Indian Act. A promise, a promise, a promise. The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) stood up and asked if there would be a woman at the conference table to look at native rights with the Premiers and the Prime Minister. Well, we got a lot of bafflelegab, which when you cut through it, means the answer is no. The future of Indian women and their relationship to the Constitution of Canada may or may not be decided at that conference, but we know one thing about it: there will be no female person at the table looking at the fundamental law of this country and at probably the most glaring human rights violations of which this nation is guilty, to be found in the Indian Act. We will not have a single female person at the table, that is what the Minister responsible for the status of women told us this morning.

Then we heard this morning about retraining, Mr. Speaker. The Minister talked about the fact that 15-year-old females are dropping out of physics and mathematics. That is true and relates in part to our culture, in part to the counsellors in the school system and to many other factors. But the context in