

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Lalonde:** The Conservatives wanted to close down Canadair!

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, according to my information, Senator Austin intends to appear before the Committee with the promised information. It would therefore be more appropriate if the Hon. Member would ask for the information at that time. I am interested in what the Hon. Member has to say, because I feel his comments differ from what the Hon. Member for Etobicoke said a few weeks ago. I am also very pleased to have his support for Canadair and to receive advice from the Opposition.

**Mr. Lalonde:** They wanted to close down Canadair!

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER PROVIDE FINANCIAL UNDERTAKING

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for being so pleased to hear us today, but my question is: Can the Minister give the House the assurance that no supplementary funding will be granted the companies before a report or recommendations by Senator Austin regarding long term projects is tabled? We want this industry to be viable. We want it to be profitable, now more than ever before. However, we want to know and Canadians want to know, before re-investing \$500 million, what the exact plans are for these two companies, and if those plans are reasonable, you can count on our co-operation.

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as I said before, Senator Austin intends to appear before a number of committees to give the information being sought by the Hon. Member. If Hon. Members are not satisfied with the information, they have the option of not approving the requested appropriations, but I am sure there will be sufficient information to convince even the Hon. Member that the jobs in these two companies are important to this country.

\* \* \*

[English]

## STATUS OF WOMEN

## LOAN PLAN ASSISTANCE FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the status of women and concerns the problems faced by women in the post-secondary educational system. The problems are particularly severe for women who are part-time students, whose numbers increased by a startling 250 per cent over the last decade. Most women attending post-secondary institutions on a part-time basis are doing so because full-time studies are not accessible to them.

Does the Minister know that the federal loan system to part-time students discriminates very sharply against part-timers, most of whom are women? Has she done, or will she do, anything to ensure that the federal loan plan is amended immediately so that they will be treated as fairly as are full-time students?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it is a problem which I have discussed with the responsible Minister. I must clarify that it discriminates against part-time students, not specifically against women, though women are the unfortunate recipients. It is something which requires some consideration.

I congratulate Hon. Members opposite for bringing up the subject of women today on the eve of International Women's Day. It is refreshing to have the subject discussed in the House.

**Mr. Deans:** We are always bringing it up. It is time you listened.

## REPAYMENT REGULATIONS

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister does not seem to be aware of the fact that women constitute the bulk of the part-time student population. Is she aware of the fact that the part-timers must start repaying their loans immediately, that there is no moratorium on interest, and that they do not get the \$50 allocation for books? Is she aware of the discrimination in the Student Loan Act? What is she going to do about it?

● (1440)

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am painfully aware of that fact, as my sister suffers under those consequences. I reiterate that my concern is her concern, and it is something that I believe we should do something about. But again, I state very clearly that the law is not there to discriminate specifically against women. It does discriminate against part-time students, and unfortunately women are the ones who suffer most. But 'twas ever thus in our society.

\* \* \*

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF RIFLES

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. On February 7 the Minister announced a contract for the purchase of 81,000 new rifles for the Canadian Armed Forces. At the time he stated to the press that he hoped this would help the re-election of the Member for Kitchener and other Liberal