

*Oral Questions***EMPLOYMENT**

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister of employment.

Labour force data released today tragically reveals more of the same for unemployed Canadians: no jobs, no hope. The unemployed rate remains unchanged at 11.5 per cent. Full-time jobs continue to disappear as part-time jobs increase. Manufacturing jobs are disappearing. Youth unemployment is rising and the number of students who have work is dropping.

An entire generation of Canadians are losing hope. Unemployment has remained at double digits in Canada since February 1991. Meanwhile the unemployment rate in the U.S. has dropped to 6.9 per cent.

What hope can the minister offer Canadians without jobs while his government continues to accept a tragically high unemployment rate in Canada? When will this government realize that Canada works when Canadians are working?

Hon. Pauline Browes (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration)): Madam Speaker, the news of unemployed Canadians is never one that we are accepting. We are working very diligently in order to get people back to work. I would like to bring a number of indicators to the member's attention.

One is that the manpower temporary services survey showed that 21 per cent of those firms surveyed planned to hire people in July and August.

There are 116,000 more Canadians working now than there were last year. The help wanted index has taken the biggest leap in six years. Unemployment insurance claims have decreased 18 per cent in the last quarter from last year. There are some good indicators of how things are going in terms of people getting back to work.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, among the young people who were neither students nor in the labour force, 72 per cent were women and just over half of them were mothers. Women in this group outnumber men four to one and 60 per cent of

these women reported that child care responsibilities kept them from looking for paid employment.

It should also be noted that women outnumber men in part-time positions, the only job creation in the country, by more than two to one.

How can the government continue to refuse to implement a national child care program when these figures clearly demonstrate that a lack of child care prevents women from entering the paid work force? How can this minister continue to support the economic marginalization of women in Canada?

Hon. Pauline Browes (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration)): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. member that some 944,000 more women are working today than in 1984. Between 1984 and 1992 the number of working women in managerial and administrative positions climbed 85 per cent. These positions accounted for 31 per cent of all jobs created for women between 1984 and 1992.

I think that is very good news in terms of women being in administrative and managerial positions.

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CANADA POST

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada Post.

We are in a devastating recession. Unemployment is at 11.4 per cent, two million people are on welfare, and hundreds of thousands of Canadians, including children, line up at food banks every day. The government claims it has no resources to solve those problems, yet in the face of this economic and social turmoil how can cabinet and Treasury Board approve \$55 million for the purchase of Purolator?

• (1140)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I read in the paper where the hon. member said that he was in favour of the purchase if the alternative was sale to the United States led companies, which is the alternative. I regret his partisanship or his colleagues got to him and caused him to depart from his original, quite reasonable position.