

and the only way". She makes a number of recommendations. It will take a bit of time for Cabinet to look at these and decide which we think are the best methods of implementation. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that will be done very quickly.

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FINANCE

RELIEF SOUGHT FOR LOW-YIELDING ANNUITY HOLDERS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, the same question I have put to various Ministers of Finance for the last seven or eight years, always with negative results. In the past people purchases federal government annuities in good faith, and these annuities are now paying a very low return. Will the Minister take the necessary measures to introduce some relief for these annuity holders either by increasing the rate of return, as recommended by a committee back in 1976, or failing that, take action to redeem these low-yielding annuities, some of which were purchased 25 to 30 years ago and more, redeem them at full face value and thus eliminate this unfortunate problem once and for all?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the Hon. Member's concern about the returns paid on these annuities. I know he is aware that the annuities were originally a contract between the Government and the purchasers, so that is a consideration which has to be taken into account. However, I assure him that I will look into the matter as I know he is very concerned and has expressed these points of view over a number of years, and I will get back to him.

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ENERGY

HIBERNIA OIL FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. There is a great deal of concern in the oil and gas industry about the federal Government's agreement to the Province of Newfoundland's request to postpone release of the environmental impact study on Hibernia production prepared by Mobil Oil. Can the Prime Minister confirm that the Canada oil and gas lands administration has in fact received a copy of this study?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am informed that is the case. Were the Minister here she might be able to provide the Hon. Member with more detailed information. That was the advice I received, but I will check into it and convey a more detailed answer to him.

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT STUDY BE TABLED

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that they have a copy of the study. If that is so, will the Prime Minister undertake to obtain a copy of this study and table it in the House?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Yes, I will make that undertaking on behalf of the Minister.

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EMPLOYMENT

ABELLA REPORT—CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration on the very important subject of contract compliance. The Liberal Government's voluntary approach to affirmative action in the private sector failed dismally, with only 71 out of 1,400 companies making any progress in this area. Does the Minister intend to carry on the Liberal approach or will she commit herself, as the Prime Minister committed himself, to recommend contract compliance to Cabinet immediately?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows, as I do, that the Prime Minister's statement was to the effect that we would insist that companies providing services to the federal Government create and implement programs and timetables for attracting, training, and advancing women. That would be applied to other groups mentioned by the Abella report as well. The recommendations made by Judge Abella will help us to bring about implementation of that statement by the Prime Minister.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the Minister really is letting women down who I think want action now.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Mitchell: Will the Minister immediately carry out what she is entitled to do under the Human Rights Act? Will she move now on the whole question of implementing employment equity, as she can under the Human Rights Act?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that I am not letting women down, I do not intend to let women down, and I will never be in a position where I am accused of letting women down.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!