

## S. O. 21

## CANADA LABOUR CODE

## AMENDMENT SOUGHT TO ASSIST BANK EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have written the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight) asking him to introduce amendments to the labour code which will result in stronger legislation. I again urge the Government to set up an inquiry into the labour practices of all banks, and to improve the Canada Labour Code so that banks will be forced to negotiate fairly with their employees.

The Imperial Bank of Commerce is well known for maintaining a ghetto of low-paid employees, the majority of whom are women. Decisions against the Bank of Commerce have included Canada Labour Relations Board decisions 745-362 and 745-361, which have found the bank to be practising unfair labour practices by laying off union sympathizers and bringing in employees from other branches known to be loyal to the bank. The most recent decision against the bank forced the signing of the first contract, and the Canada Labour Relations Board labelled the bank anti-union and obstructionist in its behaviour.

The bank and other employers can continue to behave in this arrogant manner unless steps are taken to amend the code. The present situation is a national disgrace which is sanctified by deliberately weak federal legislation.

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## EQUALITY RIGHTS

## DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WOMEN

**Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, the Government has demonstrated time and time again its commitment to ensuring equality for women in Canadian society. Ensuring equality requires more than words, it requires action. One area where the results of the Government's undertakings with respect to equality of opportunity is most apparent is employment. Figures released by Statistics Canada on Friday reveal that unemployment among women is down significantly.

To illustrate, 293,000 more women are working today than there were in September of 1984. The unemployment rate for women has fallen by 1.9 percentage points since the election. In comparison, the unemployment rate increased by 3.4 per cent during the term of the last Liberal Government. The number of unemployed women has decreased by 82,000, compared to an increase of 243,000 under the Liberals.

This is real progress, Mr. Speaker, and it will continue so that Canadian women will achieve social and economic equality under a Progressive Conservative Government.

## THE ECONOMY

## SUCCESS OF CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, there is more good news. The central bank rate dropped last week to 10.14 per cent and banks are lowering their mortgage and loan rates. Lower interest rates help create jobs and, sure enough, the unemployment rate dropped to 9.6 per cent, the lowest rate since 1982. Since September, 1984, 574,000 jobs have been created. Youth employment has risen by 47,000 since the election, compared to a net loss of 285,000 under the Liberals.

I met last Saturday with members of our local advisory council on employment, which is chaired by Mrs. Shirley Scaife of Willowdale. Some of the other local members present were Jack Hauseman, Asta Dvorak, Frank Wilson, and Brian Patterson.

It is clear that the Canadian Jobs Strategy is working. The Job Entry Program, which concentrates on women who have been out of the workforce for three or four years, and on youth, has been a sparkling success thanks to the strong support of business people.

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[Translation]

## FINANCE

INVESTMENT OF REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS  
AND OF REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS FUNDS

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has made public the final regulations stemming from his May 23, 1985 Budget measures aimed at encouraging investments from pension plans and other retirement plans in small- and medium-sized businesses.

According to the first part of these regulations, Mr. Speaker, RRSPs and RRIFs may invest in Canadian corporations with which they deal at arm's length.

Mr. Speaker, how can those regulations help small business when the Minister of Finance undoubtedly uses them as a smokescreen behind which major corporations hide to diversify their holdings?

Mr. Speaker, we know very well that the only people who can invest in small businesses are the owners themselves, their relatives and their associates.