

*Oral Questions*

passed by the Senate yesterday, and I think all members of this House should be very pleased that the bill has finally been adopted.

The regulations will be tabled as soon as possible in the new year, and there will undoubtedly be room for improvement as there is in the case of any piece of legislation, especially this one. The government, and especially my colleague, the Minister of Justice, will be monitoring this very closely. Furthermore, appropriate amendments will be introduced, as required.

\* \* \*

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. According to Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate in Quebec is nearly 12 per cent, and 13,000 more people were without work in November than in October. Twelve thousand of the 13,000 who lost their jobs were women. How does the government intend to reverse this trend, which is disastrous for Quebec and for Canada?

[English]

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Madam Speaker, in looking at the figures, the hon. member is right, but most of those were part-time jobs, not full-time jobs that were lost.

What we are doing not only in Quebec, but across this country is concentrating a great deal of money into the training and retraining of individuals who are on unemployment insurance, who have lost their jobs, whose jobs have become obsolete, to train them with the types of skills they will need to face the next number of years in this highly competitive country that we live in.

We are concentrating on that. We are spending some \$6 billion, which is a tremendous amount of money for training, and women will be the large beneficiary of those funds being expended.

[Translation]

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Madam Speaker, Montreal has the highest unemployment rate of all major Canadian cities—nearly 12 per cent. Why does the government not realize that its policies are not

helping the Montreal area? When will it do something to get Montreal out of this economic slump?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Saint-Léonard surely knows, or at least he should know, about the efforts this government has made in recent years to create jobs of the future in the Montreal area, jobs in high technology, aviation and pharmaceuticals. They are the result of laws passed and action taken by this government.

As for the situation of the unemployed in Montreal in general and the east end in particular, I think that the programs we created by changing the Unemployment Insurance Act to be able to spend much more on job training, in co-operation with the Government of Quebec, are concrete measures taken to correct the situation.

\* \* \*

[English]

**WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, yesterday I wrote a letter to the minister responsible for the status of women urging her to use her powers in her other capacity as the Associate Minister of National Defence to allow members of the military to wear white ribbons this week, just as they are allowed to wear a thistle for St. Andrew's Day, a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day, a leek for St. David's Day and poppies on Remembrance Day.

I want to ask the minister if she acted on this issue and, if not, why not?

**Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women):** Madam Speaker, I received my hon. colleague's letter this morning when I returned to Ottawa. Perhaps if she could have spoken to me about it a bit earlier it would have given us a bit more time.

I can advise my hon. colleague that there are, of course, regulations and rules which govern uniforms and appropriately so. If any changes are required there is a process of decision making with the Armed Forces Council that we go through.