

*Oral Questions*

My question to the minister is: Will he not withdraw this stupid surcharge and act constructively to, instead of increasing the financial barriers for students, help to cut them down?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** Mr. Speaker, those young people are not typical of the bright, vigorous, vibrant young people that I have come to meet from coast to coast.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**An hon. member:** They'll pay the deficit.

**Mr. Weiner:** The member will know that the current program is undergoing an internal review as well as an external examination to see how much more effectively it can meet the very pressing needs of those students who require assistance.

This government has nothing to be ashamed of in terms of its contribution to post-secondary education. In 1984-85, \$4.2 billion was contributed versus \$5.7 billion in 1989-90. We have increased spending, as I said, under this program. We have established 15 networks of Centres of Excellence involving over 30 universities. We have increased funding for the three granting councils from \$500 million in 1984-85 to \$800 million in 1989-90.

**An hon. member:** Speech.

**Mr. Weiner:** We value education. We value our contribution. We are going to continue all we can do to be helpful to make Canada the most competitive society in the world.

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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the court's confirmation of Canadian women as persons, but sadly, today we also see a tremendous upsurge in the murder rate against Canadian women.

My question is for the Minister of Justice. What program does the minister have to assist Canadian women who are living in terror, and what does she plan to do to end this scourge?

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to answer the hon. member's question, which was put to me very recently by one of her colleagues.

The government's family violence program is shared by a number of departments, including those of my colleagues, the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Solicitor General, but I would be very pleased to review what the Department of Justice is doing to this end.

We have, first of all, engaged in a reform of the Criminal Code in the law governing sexual violence, which was amended in 1983. We are now assessing the impact of those changes.

In addition, we are analysing measures to deal specifically with violent pornography. We fund research to such projects or through television programs to inform the general public about the existing law of sexual assault and an evaluation of programs for men who batter their spouses or lovers.

In policy development, we have set up a departmental committee to develop policies relating to women, especially violence against women. We have participated in the interdepartmental committee developing a policy on family violence.

Finally, with respect to the administration of justice, we have provided support for conferences and seminars designed to sensitize justice professionals on sex equality issues, especially as they relate to violence against women.

**An hon. member:** Speech.

**Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre):** I am sure the hon. member as a member of the legal profession may be aware of the programs sponsored by the Canadian Judicial Centre for the Canadian judiciary to sensitize them to issues with respect to violence against women as they appear in the court.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, assessment, research and development are all very well and good in their place. But, two weeks ago a 16-year old girl was murdered in the shadow of these Parliament buildings. This is a war and women are dying.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same minister. Not long ago in Montreal, over a period of only ten days, seven women were killed by their husbands. As a woman and as the person responsible for law enforcement at the national level, what does the