

attitude taken by the Treasury Board, then she can direct her question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, that long homily from the stealth missile did not deceive anyone, so I will turn to the President of the Treasury Board.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH
LEGISLATION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board will also know that Labour Canada released a report last month confirming that the federal Government is not enforcing its own equal pay for work of equal value guidelines in the federal Public Service. I would ask the President of the Treasury Board if he will act immediately to reorganize Treasury Board's compensation standards, to comply with equal pay for work of equal value legislation.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Hon. Member has confirmed the fact that federal law, under the Canadian Human Rights Act, calls for equal pay for work of equal value. As I recall, the Labour Canada report in question points out that the federal Government is far ahead of the private sector and of any of the provincial Governments in that regard. In that connection, we have been working with the Human Rights Commission to identify situations where, in spite of this principle in the law, the principle is not being applied. In recent months we have settled a number of cases dealing with substantial numbers of people to ensure that these principles are in fact being observed.

● (1430)

In line with that commitment in the law, in line with my own commitment and the commitment of the Government, we are certainly working very actively to make sure that the principle is respected, not just in its written form. In fact we are making substantial progress. We are far ahead of the private sector and other Governments, and we will continue to be ahead.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer the question when he is going to reorganize Treasury Board's compensation standards. That is what we want to know.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION—DELAY IN DEALING WITH
COMPLAINTS

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question arises directly out of the Minister's reply concerning the Canadian Human Rights Commission, because it does not have sufficient staff or resources to deal adequately with the complaints that come before it. The Minister probably knows that a complaint filed four years ago by the Energy and Chemical Workers' Union on behalf of 31 women in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, is only now

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going before a tribunal. What will the Minister do, or urge the Government to do, so that, first of all, it will not sit around and wait until complaints are filed, and second, when complaints are filed, see that they are dealt with expeditiously?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, with respect to compensation standards, they are not intended to do other than provide equal pay for work of equal value. I will be very happy to examine the situation and take prompt corrective action.

With respect to the Canadian Human Rights Commission, it operates at arm's length from the Government. If the Chief Commissioner and the other commissioners want to make proposals for additional staff and resources to deal with complaints more expeditiously, to the Minister who answers to Parliament for them, I will be very happy to work as sympathetically as I can to provide a positive and swift response to this request. The request has to come from the Commission, which is an independent body. I, for one, would be prepared to respond in a swift and sympathetic manner once the request is brought to my attention.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has had two supplementaries.

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FINANCE

TREASURY BILL RATES—EFFECT ON GOVERNMENT DEFICIT

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of State for Finance, and in view of the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister was formerly Minister of Finance.

The Minister will know that today at the Treasury Bill auctions the Government had to pay just a whisker under 11 per cent for one year money. That very fact alone militates against all low interest mortgage rates from now on. Interest rates on mortgages from trust companies and insurance companies are going to go immediately to the 12 per cent and 13 per cent level, certainly for a one-year term.

The Deputy Prime Minister will also know that the budget deficit and its figures were all based on much lower interest carrying costs on the national debt.

What action does the Deputy Prime Minister now propose with respect to the Borrowing Authority Act that is now before the House, and with respect to the deficit of the Government, in view of this enormous increase which has taken place in the last week in the cost of carrying funded debt by the Government?