

The Address—Mr. Broadbent

between the sexes. He said this with reference to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value:

● (1710)

[Translation]

Of course, I will go further. I will make sure that this equality principle is adhered to by all those who are eager to do business with the federal government.

[English]

He said that on August 15 during the NAC debate in the election campaign. That was an unequivocal commitment to ensure that companies doing business with the Government of Canada would need to have in operation the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

On the other important issue affecting Canadian women, that of affirmative action, in March of last year the Prime Minister said the following, which was repeated significantly in May at the lunches with leaders in Toronto:

When seeking Government business, companies will be required to detail their action plans, timetables and programs for attracting, training and advancing women within their operations. This, in my view, is a legitimate and fair requirement.

I say through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister that if it was appropriate to make commitments in the summer about the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, if it was appropriate to insist on behalf of Canadian women that private companies produce affirmative action programs during an election campaign, it ought to have been in the Throne Speech which we had this week.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: I would like to conclude with the following words: Canadians do want change, they do want conciliation, they do want economic renewal and co-operation, all of which values are to be found in the Throne Speech. There are things which can be done and there are things which should be done.

It is clear, in my view, that the Liberal Party does not really know what it wants. It said one thing in July, another thing in August, and another thing in the House of Commons. However, something is clear, and that is, that we in the New Democratic Party will maintain consistent with what we promised. When a laid-off worker in the Yukon calls, we will be listening. When a woman telephone worker in Newfoundland complains about sexual discrimination, we will be with her. The next time a farmer in Saskatchewan must take action to defend his or her family farm against a bank, we will be on their side. In short, in the summer of 1984 the New Democratic Party campaigned day in and day out for the ordinary person of this country, and I pledge that the same Party will work day in and day out in the House of Commons for the same people. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) wish to move a subamendment?

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the amendment be amended by adding the following words:

"and specifically, that your government has failed, 1. to set jobs as its top and immediate priority; and to set targets and outline specific new programs to put Canadians back to work; 2. to reform the tax system to ensure wealthy Canadians pay their fair share of taxes and that corporations use their tax breaks to create more jobs; and, 3. to provide immediate measures to bring about equality for women in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: I have examined the subamendment proposed by the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) and find it proper.

At this point we are continuing debate on the subamendment moved by the Hon. Member for Oshawa.

On motion of Mrs. Browes the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn the House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.