

*Supply*

complicate the tax system and tax administration, the kind of criticism that is currently directed at grants can also be aimed at incentives.

I will close by saying that benefiting Canadians is the fundamental motivator in all tax reform. As we grapple with the technicalities, the subtleties and the complexities of our tax system, we must never lose sight of the citizens it is ultimately meant to serve. That is what our efforts are all about. The real bottom line is the men and women of Canada. That is the goal of the people meeting with NAC today. I hope the goal of everyone in the Chamber is to make Canada a fairer economy. The economic tide is rising, and when that happens, all boats are lifted, including the economic boats of all Canadians.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions or comments? Since there are no questions or comments, we will continue debate with the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom).

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Edmonton was very concerned about the deficit. I think everyone is concerned about the very high deficit in the country. My concern is that the natural tendency of the Conservative Party will be to deal with that deficit through cut-backs in various social programs.

**An Hon. Member:** No, we won't.

**Mr. Nystrom:** One Hon. Member is saying "No". I can hear him from here. I think the rest of them are saying that they want to deal with this through cut-backs. That makes me very nervous. The way to deal with the deficit in this country is to make us once again a nation of producers. We must start producing and working.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Right on!

**Mr. Nystrom:** We must make ourselves a nation of producers. We must start producing goods and services to have import replacements. That will be done by concentrating on our base industries; farming, fishing, forestry, mineral resources, and small businesses.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nystrom:** That is the direction which I wish we would take in this country. The second way of doing it, Mr. Speaker, is through tax reform.

**Ms. Jewett:** They won't clap at that one. They are not interested in tax reform.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nystrom:** There is one Tory who wants tax reform. Are there any other Tories who want tax reform in this House, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nystrom:** There is a second one over there. I think they know that for far too long in the country we have had all kinds of tax shelters of the rich people. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) agrees. Being a wealthy person, he knows all about that.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Not as wealthy as you.

**Mr. Nystrom:** We have all kinds of tax loopholes for very large companies. We have several billions of dollars in deferred taxes. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if we plugged those tax holes and reformed the taxation system in the country, making the wealthier people pay their fair share, it would go a long way to paying off the deficit in Canada and to saving the social programs that are needed by all Canadians, particularly the women and children of the country. I hope the House will take that direction in the future.

The most important aspect of this debate today is the issue of equality. There is definitely not equality between men and women in this country with regard to occupations or salaries. In many ways that gap is widening rather than closing in this great country of ours. Before Christmas we received the report of Judge Abella called *Equality in Employment*. I would like to refer to some of the startling statistics in this report.

First, we must understand that the participation rate of women in the labour force is escalating extremely rapidly. In 1966 only 35 per cent of the women in the country were working. In 1976 45 per cent of the women were working, and in 1982 nearly 52 per cent of the women in Canada were in the workforce. With regard to males, in 1966 80 per cent were in the workforce and presently 77 per cent are in the workforce. Therefore, the participation rate of men is dropping slightly but that of women has been going up very rapidly.

Let us examine the kinds of occupations that women are in and the salaries that they are drawing for the work that they are providing to this great country of ours. On page 63 of the English version of this report we see the percentage composition by gender of major occupations in Canada in 1981. The first class listed is managerial, administrative, and other related occupations in the managerial and administrative side. We see that 75 per cent of those occupations are occupied by men, and only 25 per cent by women. In the House of Commons we have a ratio which is even worse than that. With regard to that we will have to make changes in our society and electoral process. In the occupations of natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics, we once again find a tremendous discrepancy between men and women. Eighty-six per cent of people in these professions are men, and only 14 per cent are women.

I earlier mentioned the need in our country to stimulate the economy in forestry, fisheries, farms, and mining. These are the resources which our country has. As the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) so often says, "You dance with who brung ya", to quote him exactly. We build on what we have. However, in those occupations we find that there is once again a tremendous discrepancy between men and women. In farming there are 79 per cent men and 21 per cent women. In the fishing industry and related occupations there are 95 per cent