

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 7, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

NEED FOR ORDER DURING DEBATES

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, Canadian women are outraged at the insulting behaviour of the Progressive Conservative Party vis-à-vis the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). As a Montreal journalist said: "Insults continue to fly fast and furious at the Parliament of Canada."

The Government is being attacked by the Opposition on its budgetary policy and political patronage. At a loss for other ways to defend itself, it tried its rough and ready macho style on the Hon. Member for Hamilton East. In so doing, the Government is insulting all Canadian women, who are nobody's baby, doll or chick.

I would urge the women in the Progressive Conservative caucus to tell their whip his role is not to downgrade women but to keep order in the caucus ranks.

I would also urge all Canadian women to let the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) know what they think of the male chauvinism displayed by the Conservative Party to women, and more specifically, to female Members of the Liberal Party.

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[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATLANTIC CANADA—ACTIONS OF LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Budget was especially harsh on Atlantic Canada, one of the poorer regions of our country. In response, the Liberal caucus set up a task force to tour the region. However, what the Conservative Government did was following the cuts to that region which were started by previous Liberal regimes.

The Liberals complain about the cuts to VIA Rail. It was the Liberals who cut VIA Rail and freight subsidies to Atlantic Canada.

The Liberals complain about cuts to regional development. It was the Liberals who cut the entire Department of Regional and Economic Expansion. Some 55 per cent of its money was spent in Atlantic Canada.

The Liberals complain about the transfer payment reductions made by the Conservatives which will amount to \$2 billion by 1990. Yet the 1982-1987 formula imposed on Atlantic Canada also severely cut the amount of money to that region.

Old age pensioners in Atlantic Canada will suffer because of the Conservative Budget. The Liberals did the same with the six and five program. Cuts to U.I.C. hurt Atlantic Canada. The Conservatives have also abandoned Sydney Steel, just as the Liberals did.

I have a letter which I will be sending to all Atlantic Canadians indicating not only the cuts of the Conservatives but the cuts made by the previous Liberal Government. Let us have honesty in politics.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker:

Senior citizens are often isolated, poor, and in a crippling state of dependence. Recent statistics indicate that more than 60 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men over the age of 65 who live alone have incomes that are below the poverty line.

Those were the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on July 26, 1984, at Sherbrooke, Quebec. They are true words. Unfortunately, they are sprinkled with alligator tears.

In full knowledge of the plight of senior citizens, the Prime Minister has taken from the pockets of senior citizens needed pension increases which are required for the necessities of life. The Prime Minister had made the words "honour" and "appropriateness" the buzz-words of his Government. These words, when used by Conservatives, have come to be synonymous with "manipulation" and "deceit".

The Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues try to tell Canadians that they run a compassionate, open, and caring Government. Their actions bespeak a Government which has introduced a form of economic euthanasia on the backs of elderly Canadians. No equivocation, no rationalization, and no economic doublespeak will make their actions against senior citizens fair. The Conservative Party, from its early days as the Family Compact, has been the Party of privilege in Canada. That has not changed.