

Supply

of inflation having dropped since the June, 1982 budget, she was pleased to announce that for the next three-month period, commencing April, 1983, Old Age Security pensions will be paid at the fully-indexed rate. That is what the Minister of National Health and Welfare said last week. I believe that answers the question regarding pensioners.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Hervieux-Payette: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary could indicate to the House just how much money the government has earmarked for the promotion of women's rights through various programs initiated by the Secretary of State. I know that the federal government has made a major effort, but for the benefit of the House, I should like the Parliamentary Secretary to tell us the extent of the financial commitment of the Secretary of State.

Mrs. Killens: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to answer this question. In my own riding, there is "La maison de l'ancre", which is a sort of shelter for women. Also, I have just contacted the Secretary of State to try and obtain financial assistance for battered or raped women. Last year, the Secretary of State provided \$3.2 million to help Canadian women in emergency situations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Any more questions?

[*English*]

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, in dealing with the motion of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), I think that perhaps the clearest-cut statement that there is a problem in this country, and this is the thrust of the Hon. Member's motion, is that equality has not been achieved, we are a long way from it and there are immediate problems. There is a proposal for a long-term possible mechanism to help us reach a solution over time.

In the context of that motion, my biggest disappointment to this point is that both the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary stood in the House and indicated that they were proud of the record of this Government. If I were a Member of a Government that had a track record like the one this Government has, I could not stand in this House or on a platform anywhere in the country and feel proud. There really is not a record to be proud of.

The most solid achievement which Members have referred to is the constitutional provision on equality for women. That is not an achievement of Government; that is an achievement of the Opposition and of the women of this country. There was no provision in the original Constitution that was laid before this Chamber that would make women equal to men in Canada. In committee, through the protests of people around this country and the good work of the Opposition, which forced the Government to open the committee to the public in the first place, that equality provision was put in the Constitution. Then the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) bargained it away on a weekend. He threw it out, and the Opposition had to dig in its heels again and work in concert with the women of Canada to get it back in. So when the Minister stands in this House, Mr.

Speaker, and says to Canadians, "That is our prime achievement in the last three years", I will say that that is an achievement for which the Minister should hang her head in shame. The Parliament of Canada has reason for pride in forcing that provision back, but not the Government. The Members of the Government should hang their heads in shame. Fifty-one per cent of the people of this country have had to organize, to protest, simply to have a provision included in the Constitution of Canada which makes them equal to other persons. The Government has forced them to do that, and this is an achievement in which no one should have pride.

• (1540)

The Minister responsible for the status of women is rapidly acquiring a reputation as the Minister responsible for the buffer, the Minister responsible for bafflegab, the Minister responsible for making speeches on behalf of women and sounding sympathetic, for trying to portray a Government which is supposedly sympathetic, when in reality we have a Government which clearly is not sympathetic and does not believe in the equality of female persons. That is a track record which is abysmal. That is a track record which should cause all Members of Parliament to feel some sense of shame about participating in a Parliament with a Government so consistently and so clearly violating the basic sense of equality.

The Minister of State responsible for women stood in this House earlier this day and announced a new program under an interdepartmental committee to enforce her guidelines relative to Government action, and if you read the speech in *Hansard* tomorrow you will find that she said, "What is the point of guidelines if you do not have an enforcement mechanism. I stand in this Chamber and I proudly announce a mechanism to enforce guidelines." I must draw the Minister's attention to her behaviour on the previous Opposition day, Mr. Speaker, when she stood in this Chamber and voted against a motion which would have referred the Coalgate-Gillespie affair to the individual responsible for enforcing guidelines. The Hon. Members of this House spent almost a week in the Question Period on the issue of guidelines, the possibility that guidelines had been violated, and we stood in the House and had a whole day's debate on the need to refer the issue to a body which could reach a judgment on whether or not guidelines had been violated. Nothing in the Minister's behaviour today exemplifies to me more clearly the consistent pattern of this Government, which is to say one thing and do another. To say you need an enforcement of the mechanism for guidelines on one issue and, then, as they did a week ago, to beat down the Opposition in its attempt to have guidelines reviewed by an enforcement body, is first-rate hypocrisy.

Every backbencher on that side who supports a Government which says one thing and does another is equally guilty of the same hypocrisy. The judgment of the Canadian public will come. One day there will be a general election and that hypocrisy will be headlined on platform after platform. You