

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is acting pretty ineffectively. I pointed out to him that women fill only 24 per cent of the training spaces in the country. Surely that is not equality. There are predictions that, as a result of technological change, unemployment for women will be as high as 35 per cent by 1990, yet we know that a paid educational leave system in the country could reduce unemployment.

## CONCEPT OF PAID EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Mr. Speaker, when the report "Learning for Life" was released yesterday, the Minister appeared to endorse the concept of paid educational leave. Was he only paying lip service to the objectives of paid educational leave and equality for women, or is he preparing legislation to introduce a system of paid educational leave?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the report which I received on skill development leave training yesterday is an extraordinarily important one, and deals with an extraordinarily urgent question. Yesterday I endorsed the over-all recommendations in the report. I will be raising the subject matter of the report with provincial Ministers when I meet with them in Saint John on Thursday.

I also intend to ensure that the report is forwarded to the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre for consideration. Some of the recommendations in the report can be acted upon within my Department immediately, and others will be discussed promptly with other government Departments.

I also expect to receive very shortly the report of the task force headed by Judge Abella, on actions which can be taken within the Government and Crown corporations to respond more aggressively and more positively to the provision of special employment for women in Crown corporations and in government.

There are reports on their way to us. There is the one that we have just received which contains many useful suggestions. As a Government we are determined to act to implement those suggestions as quickly and as practically as possible.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

## DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, on February 21 I asked the Minister of Justice if he would report back to the House on any possible statutory breaches with respect to the disclosure of certain confidential information under the Unemployment Insurance Commission Act, or any other Act, given to people not entitled to it in the Peterborough and Durham-Northumberland areas. He undertook to report back to the House. I know there is at least one

government report on the matter, and I wonder if the Minister has come to a conclusion and what action he has taken.

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the information that was disclosed apparently falls into two categories. One was the category of information which was provided by the person concerned, and the other was information provided by the Department. In the case of the disclosure of the first category, that is information provided by the individual—such things as his name, age, SIN and so on—the disclosure is regulated by Section 114 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. This creates a defence for the disclosure of information obtained by CEIC from any person. As a result, there would appear to be a technical breach of the Act in the case at hand. However, it appears that the official concerned acted in good faith and made an honest mistake.

Disclosure of information in the second category is covered by Section 8 of the Privacy Act. Disclosure does not appear to have been authorized under this Section, and thus there has likely been a breach of the Privacy Act. However, no offence is created in the Privacy Act for breach. In any event, Mr. Speaker, we have been informed by CEIC that the disclosure was contrary to its policy and that corrective action has been taken.

● (1500)

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I have made the decision not to prosecute in either case.

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## ENERGY

## TAX PROPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE OIL SANDS PROJECT

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. Has the Government agreed to remove the Petroleum Gas Revenue Tax and set a floor price on production, as recommended by William Hopper, to encourage the construction of an oil sands mining operation north of Fort McMurray?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I will bring the Hon. Member's question to the attention of the Minister of Energy, and I will ask him to bring the answer to the House as soon as possible.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

## UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice, who is under a statutory duty to make sure that the laws of Canada are carried out, now talks about a technical breach, or an unauthorized breach by a civil servant. Intent may not really be a relevant factor in