

● (1110)

[English]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

PLAUDITS FOR FILM *VISIONS OF WOMEN*

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, today I am very proud to join my colleagues in observing International Women's Day, a day which marks the concerted move by women to participate fully in the consideration of the social, political, and economic concerns of our society as full partners. Last July I had the opportunity to participate at the UN End of the Decade Conference on Women in Nairobi. The Conference proved to be a giant step forward for the democratization of the women's movement. It has now become a populist movement for women around the world.

The National Film Board produced, through Studio D, in co-operation with the private sector, a very fine film called *Visions of Women/Visions des femmes*. It is challenging and celebrating and—

[Translation]

—and it makes a commitment to celebrate the status of women and the success of this conference.

[English]

I would like to encourage all Members here today—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND AGENCIES

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, when International Women's Day was first celebrated, Canadian women were in the throes of fighting for the most basic political right, the right to vote. Today the full range of issues of concern to women occupy centre stage in our political arena. This is due to the remarkable growth in the influence of women's groups and the integration of women into the decision-making process. The Government has made steady progress in its efforts to accelerate the appointment of women to federal Government boards, agencies, and commissions.

[Translation]

Since we have been in power, one quarter of these positions have been filled by women. Last week, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) announced a 22 per cent increase in the appointment of women judges.

Our Government will keep up this trend until women account for 50 per cent of such appointments.

S.O. 21

[English]

THE BUDGET

EFFECT ON BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, today the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is attempting to do the impossible, sell his Budget in British Columbia, a province where food banks, unemployment guidance centres, UIC and welfare are the major growth industries. With unemployment hovering around 14 per cent and youth unemployment at more than 20 per cent, with a pending crisis in the forest industry regarding U.S. trade, the mining industry in neutral, the fishing and agricultural sectors in serious difficulty, and business still reeling from the recession, what does the Government do? It raises taxes by \$1,305 per household, ignores the forest and mining industry, cuts back on help to farmers, reduces support for the fishery, and offers no special consideration to one of the hardest hit areas of Canada. The Budget will actually worsen the economic condition of British Columbia through federal Government lay-offs, program cut-backs, and reduced consumer purchasing power. After years and Socred/Tory-type Budgets in British Columbia, the Prime Minister will have a tough time convincing British Columbians that Socred/Tory times are not tough times.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, the Budget of the Minister of Finance announces economic assistance programs for farmers. For instance, the Government will increase the budget of the Farm Credit Corporation during the next two years. A \$700 million program has been set up for commodity based mortgages. These mortgages will be offered at a 6 per cent interest rate to farmers who have serious debt problems and will assure them of having long term and stable financing.

Initiatives will also be taken to make it easier for farmers who must look for another job. A new program will provide them with vocational guidance, retraining and temporary financial assistance services. These measures to support Canadian farmers will cost \$65 million this year and \$130 million next year.

The 3 cents a litre fuel tax rebate for primary producers will be extended for one year to January 1, 1988.

Mr. Speaker, all this is in addition to the many achievements of our Government to ensure the prosperity—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds. The Hon. Member for Westmorland-Kent (Mr. Robichaud).