Congressional Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and special investigators have made no allegations of impropriety by the Canadian Government or any of its agencies at any time, in any circumstances. That is the situation. If my hon. friend has a charge to make or any new evidence, please let him bring it forward, as opposed to the scurrilous smears in which he indulges on a regular basis.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOGNITION OF HOME-MAKING SKILLS AS RELEVANT QUALIFICATION FOR JOBS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the status of women. Recently the Public Service Commission refused to recognize home-making skills as relevant experience for a procurement clerk's job. The Minister will know that Canada endorsed resolutions at the Nairobi Decade of Women Conference to value unpaid women's work as part of the GNP. Therefore, will the Minister undertake studies to determine the value of child rearing, home management, and volunteer community work, so that these job skills will be accepted as relevant experience for jobs in the paid labour force?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, it is already the policy of the Government to value that sort of work and to take that into account in a case like this one. What surprises me is that it was a union head who went ahead with the issue and was not prepared to value this work. Given the Hon. Member's political affiliation, I am surprised that she is raising the issue.

Ms. Mitchell: I think the Minister should check into the facts of the matter when she makes a statement like that.

TREASURY BOARD'S POSITION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Will the Minister establish procedures to recognize the job skills of home-makers in applications for Public Service jobs, and will he make it a negotiable item in collective bargaining?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the answer is very clear. We recognize unpaid and voluntary work as legitimate work experience. Treasury Board is always aware of that position. It was the position which was applied in this case. The case was brought to an appeal board under the leadership of one of our unions, and an appeal board overturned the Government's position. We are reviewing the situation right now, but it was not at all government policy. The government policy is that we recognize that, and the union does not.

[*Translation*]

LAPRADE FUND

TREASURY BOARD CUTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. We learned yesterday evening that the Government is planning to cut back $40 million from the Laprade and Lower St. Lawrence Fund, which was supposed to be used to promote the economic development of our regions. How can the Minister justify this decision in view of his statement to the House on November 25, 1986, that the money in this fund would be used exclusively in the Saint-Maurice—Bois-Franc region?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I shall now repeat exactly the same statement. The region designated to benefit from the Laprade Fund to compensate for the closing of the Laprade plants remains unchanged. It is exactly the same.

Mr. Grondin: I think that the President of the Treasury Board should read the Committee reports, because they mention some changes.

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO SUBSIDIZE MAURICIE CENTRE INDUSTRIAL INCUBATOR

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is this: Why is the Minister refusing to subsidize the regional industrial incubator of the Mauricie Centre which would have a major impact on economic and industrial development in our region when the Government is ready to take away 40 per cent of the Laprade and Lower St. Lawrence Fund and use this money for other purposes outside our region?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the premise of this question is completely false. There is no plan to reduce the funds used to promote economic development in that region—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Chair could observe that we are a long way through Question Period and we are not doing very well in the number of Members being recognized, and that is because of the length of the exchanges. The Hon. Member has asked a question and the Hon. President of the Treasury Board is trying to answer it. I would ask for co-operation.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I shall try to be very brief. The amount in the Laprade Fund has remained the same since we came to power in September 1984. The amount is still the same, and it will be spent in the region which had been designated at the very beginning when the Laprade Fund was created. Third, the money will be spent to create permanent jobs and to promote permanent economic development in the region, contrary to what had happened under the previous