

Oral Questions

MINISTER'S POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared to recognize that growing numbers of Canadians oppose Cruise missile tests, are alarmed at the breach of arms control agreements, and want Canada to be a nuclear weapons free zone? Does he recognize those facts?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I know there is a great deal of concern in Canada about the inherent danger of living in a nuclear world. That is why Canada is doing everything we can to encourage arms control agreements which would move toward a reduction of that nuclear danger. One way to stop arms control agreements would be for a prominent member of the Western Alliance to turn its back on the Alliance, to turn its back on Europe, and to turn its back on the United States. That is what Mr. Gorbachev would like to see happen. That is not what this Government would like to see happen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1450)

CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM—TRAINING OF WOMEN

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. There is growing evidence that under the Canadian Jobs Strategy Program women seeking equality in the workplace are being let down. As a matter of fact, women who want to train for non-traditional work are not being covered. Under the Re-entry Program, 76 per cent of the female participants are being trained for traditional low paying jobs, and thousands of others do not qualify at all. Would the Minister recognize this deficiency in the Canadian Jobs Strategy Program and re-introduce the 30 per cent priority which was for women training for non-traditional work, which priority his Government abolished earlier this year?

Miss MacDonald: It is 42 per cent.

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): As I see it, Mr. Speaker, the jobs strategy results prove that we have achieved some of our objectives. More than 350,000 of the 610,000 jobs created in this country in the last two years were for women.

It is obvious that, through the various elements of the Jobs Strategy Program, the Government seeks to give women more opportunities to secure employment elsewhere than in what we traditionally refer to as low paying jobs.

However we cannot at the same time deny women the opportunity to look for jobs which, less well paid though they may often be, are open to Canadians generally.

Similarly, our employment strategy is to give women more opportunities to land better paying jobs.

First and foremost jobs are our concern, and it stands to reason that we will not prevent women from taking such jobs.

[English]

PRIVATE SECTOR TRAINING

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not answered my question. I was asking about women who want to train for non-traditional work. The movement is backwards with respect to these women. Only a very small percentage are able to qualify for training programs for non-traditional work under that program.

Would the Minister reconsider the Government's preference for training in the private sector as opposed to training in the institutional sector which, likewise, discriminates against women who want to train for non-traditional work? Would the Minister consider that?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am trying to understand when the Hon. Member claims that we put more emphasis on private sector than on institutional training. Such is not the case at all.

I would suggest that the Government still invests 90 per cent of the funds in the institutional sector. I never gave instructions under which indirect purchases are to be made outside the institutional sector.

According to our agreements, institutions in some of the provinces take full responsibility for training. Of course, we intend to abide by these agreements.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

FORGET COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS—COST TO PROVINCES

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In reading the Forget Commission Report recommendations—and I understand the Minister had his copy on Friday—I have noticed that two particular recommendations, the annualization of the calculation of entitlements and the elimination of regional extended benefits, will cost Newfoundland \$240 million in direct payments; Nova Scotia \$140 million; New