

*Supply*

There are a number of issues that affect women directly. The government has pretended that the child benefit is a benefit to women. I want to point out that page 99 of the government's budget document says quite clearly that the child benefit will save \$750 million this year, and \$3 billion next year. In other words, from now on the government is not adding to child benefits but is taking \$3 billion out of child benefits.

Is it benefiting those who most need it? I do not think so. I have looked at the figures. A family making \$40,000 will get \$44 more out of this program. A family making \$50,000 will get \$120 more out of this program. Those earning \$60,000 will lose \$380, while those earning over \$100,000 will lose only \$237. Does this child benefit program benefit those who most need it? The figures say otherwise.

The cancellation of the National Child Care Program has been referred to sufficiently. I always hate to talk of this as a program that relates particularly to women because, as far as I know, every child born in the world has two parents, one male and one female. Nonetheless, child care is a major factor in whether women can or cannot participate in the economy and can or cannot benefit from employment.

• (1750)

The member who last spoke said that the government is doing things for housing. The cost of housing is the greatest contributor to poverty. Yet this government has completely cancelled the co-operative housing program which allowed a lot of families, including women and their children, a lot of seniors including a majority of women, to participate in creating their own housing communities and to know that when they moved in they did not have to worry at the age of 70 or 75 about not having a place to live.

I meet with seniors from my riding in the co-op housing development that they built. They are worried that this government's restrictions on the cost of social housing will mean that they at their age will not be able to feel secure in their own homes and will not perhaps in a few years be able to afford to continue living in the homes that they built.

What has been done to social programs is obviously not the only issue that affects women. Not all women are poor, that is true. They are disproportionately poor in a very wealthy society and that is something we should all be ashamed of. The fact is because women are dispropor-

tionately poor, children are poor. We know the results of that: increased accident rates, increased illness rates, increased death, increased suicides, four times the rate of dropping out of school. Those are the results of poverty that our society cannot afford if we truly believe that our human resources are our most important resources and that developing the full potential of those human resources is the major commitment of any civilized society.

I want to go beyond those token things that people tend to refer to when they talk about the impact on women. I want to get into, for the remaining time I have, what is the real impact of this budget. How do we take the \$160 billion plus that the government will be spending this year and how can we look at how much of that money goes to benefit the female half of our population and how much goes to benefit the male half of our population. In other words, what is the gender equity in this budget? That is not a question that governments have ever asked themselves.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the results when I was involved in a similar analysis of a municipal budget in the recreation area. The vast majority of dollars spent in recreation went to benefit boys and men, not girls and women. I suspect if we did a gender equity analysis of this budget, we would find that the vast majority of spending goes not for the benefit of women and their children or women at all.

I want to just pick up a few examples. I want to talk about the fact that program spending is going up by 4.7 per cent in the Government of Canada. Yet wage controls have said that women working for the Government of Canada, and they are our lowest paid workers by a large majority, do not get an increase this year. We can afford nearly a 5 per cent increase in spending when inflation is projected at less than 3 per cent, in fact barely over 2 per cent, but we cannot afford to pay women who are earning poverty level wages to work for the Government of Canada.

We look at downsizing that has happened in government. I want to refer to the report on the Dryden air crash that came out just this past week. Repeatedly in that report we hear about highly paid technical and professional people in Transport Canada responsible for the safety of the travelling public spending increasing amounts of time doing their own clerical, secretarial and receptionist type of work.