

Well, when Ottawa gets through with the Spencer case and the sex-security trials maybe parliament will have time to deal with Canada's banking system.

Down in the deep south they discriminate against human beings because of their colour. In Canada our banking institutions discriminate against women because of their sex. Should the people of Canada tolerate this sort of thing?

Because of my experience on two occasions of women bringing their complaints to my attention, and having read this very interesting article in the South Edmonton *Sun*, I asked the minister this question in the house on March 24:

Has the minister's attention been drawn to press reports to the effect that loans to women have been refused by the Industrial Development Bank and other banks, simply on the grounds that they were women? Would the minister make inquiries of the Industrial Development Bank and other banks . . . in this respect?

I look forward to an answer from the parliamentary secretary.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Chrétien (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are all happy to see that the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) stands up again to fight for the rights of minorities, and particularly the rights of women in the business world. I wish to make the following reply:—

[English]

I have not seen the press reports to which my hon. friend referred. I should say, however, I am advised by the Industrial Development Bank that it does not discriminate, and would not dream of discriminating, amongst loan applicants on the basis of sex, if I may use that word. We know of no reason why women should not be regarded as credit-worthy. The Industrial Development Bank does in fact make loans to women applicants. The fact that these are relatively few in number simply reflects I suggest the relatively small number of women who are in business. Personally, Mr. Speaker, I think we should follow the suggestion of my hon. friend and give every consideration to women in business.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—REPORTED INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): I asked a question on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) which grew out of an article in the *Globe and Mail* in

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which it was reported that Dr. Grégoire, when speaking to the College of General Practitioners, had indicated a rather surprising increase in the incidence of tuberculosis. The number of new, active cases in 1965 had increased by 5 per cent over those reported in the previous year. He further stated that more than \$50 million was spent annually in Canada for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of tuberculosis. He said that people over 50 were more prone to develop tuberculosis today.

I was concerned at the time because of the national significance. Then this morning, in the mail, I received the most recent edition of the *Vernon News*. I discovered that the medical director of the North Okanagan Health Unit, Dr. M. R. Smart, had reported there had been an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis in that health district. The increase is small, namely five new cases within the last year as opposed to two in the previous year. However, if you consider the percentage increase, it is rather dramatic in this local constituency situation.

He also gave some figures that were rather revealing on the ages of the people involved. The number who are known to have had tuberculosis in the past and are now considered inactive cases totalled 289. There were 121 of those in the 20 to 49 age group, and 167 in the 50 and over bracket. This seems to bear out the statement made in the *Globe and Mail*.

I do not really know whether Dr. Grégoire made a proper statement when he said people over 50 are more prone to develop tuberculosis. I think he should have said that people 60 and 70 are less able to resist tuberculosis. One of the reasons they are less able to resist this disease is that the old age pension is extremely low. I was interested in knowing what steps the Department of National Health and Welfare was contemplating in order to bring this very dreaded disease under greater control.

● (10:20 p.m.)

I was hoping that one of the measures, one which I think would do most in this regard, would be dramatically to increase the size of the old age security pension. If \$50 million—I realize this is not federal funds by any means but is a sum which will be divided up among many levels of government—is spent annually in Canada on diagnosis, treatment and following up cases of tuberculosis, it must be somewhat disheartening to people conducting that program to realize that there are many