

task force? Is this his idea of trying to deal with the serious allegations against his Department?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the answer I gave the Chairman of the Progressive Conservative Task Force that is now travelling around the country, was given in the light of the rules and guidelines that ought to govern the work of parliamentarians. The Progressive Conservative Task Force and the Progressive Conservative Members themselves have decided to play politics with a matter as serious as the Income Tax Act and its administration. This is an obvious sign of their irresponsibility, and I refuse to play their little game.

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[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the status of women. The Minister knows, I am sure, that unemployment among women is estimated to rise to something in the order of 35 per cent by the year 1990, as a result of technological change. I am sure the Minister is also aware that there is estimated to be a loss of something like one and a half million jobs by the year 1990 as a result of this same technological change, and that most of those who will lose employment opportunities are women. In view of this problem, can the Minister explain why, given that 1990 is only six years away, there was not one single program in the most recent Budget of the Minister of Finance dealing with the question of job loss for women between now and the year 1990?

● (1425)

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I find it rather unusual that the Hon. Member takes this new-found interest in women, but I welcome it. I also would like him to know that the figures he is bandying about are really guesstimates. There is no really true number out there. No one really knows. The fact of the matter is that as women we are going to be profoundly affected by technological change and we must be prepared for it. There is no new funding in the Budget because there is already a tremendous amount of funding in place. I suggest the Hon. Member familiarize himself with government programs which address the problems of women.

OUTREACH PROGRAM FUNDING

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with the programs, as are many other people, particularly the women affected. Surely the Minister knows, having looked at the most recent statements of the Minister of

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Finance and others, that the programs beneficial to women have been cut by something like \$2.4 million, and there will be a net loss of 25,000 job placements for women as a result of cuts in the Outreach Program. In March of 1983 the Minister of Employment released a study of the Outreach Program in which it was stated, as a primary recommendation, that the Government should affirm the legitimacy of the program and make it a part of the permanent national employment system, and that there should be a commitment made for long-term funding.

How does the Minister square her so called interest in providing employment for women who are, as she admits, going to lose their employment opportunities during the course of the next six years as a result of technological change taking place, with the fact that there has been a cut in the money to be spent under the Outreach Program, and no additional funds provided under any other program to try to provide employment opportunities or even training for those women?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Again, Mr. Speaker, I have to state once more that the Hon. Member is obviously out of touch. There has not been a cut in Outreach Program funding. Indeed, we have solidified the Outreach Program. I suggest he update his facts.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT CREATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister suggesting there was no \$2.4 million cut? Is she suggesting for one moment that that will not result in 25,000 jobs being lost to women who otherwise would have been employed? On November 1, 1983, the Minister of Employment stated that employment among women was not a priority. He went on to say that the numbers of women who participate in government job-creation programs was way below their proportion in the labour force. That condition continues today.

Does the Minister think it reasonable that women, who make up 52 per cent of the population, and 42 per cent of the labour force, should have been employed in only 31 per cent of the Canada Works projects and only 20 per cent of the NEED Programs? Will the Minister take steps to guarantee that half of the \$150 million allocated for Canadian youth will be directed to employment opportunities for young women?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I am delighted the Hon. Member has made reference to the youth programs because it is in this particular category that the participation of females is particularly high; it approaches the 50 per cent rate. We do take measures in our job-creation projects to ensure women are hired. However, the Member does play fast and loose with figures. The facts are that the male unemployment rate has risen much faster than the female unemployment rate, and therefore it is logical that there would be more males employed in job-creation projects.