

*Oral Questions*

is under way and all of this information is being fed into that inquiry.

**Mr. Domm:** Mr. Speaker, it is as a result of this inquiry that I raised the question today. In January this year I asked the Minister the same question, and at that time she said she would respond to me or the House within two months. It is two months since January. Her exact words were, as reported at page 918 of *Hansard*: "We expect a report from the Commission within a couple of months."

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. Now that she knows that the prices are set at the refinery gates she should know that they are also set at the pumps by the refineries, and now that she knows that Petro-Canada is part of that combine that is fixing the prices and gouging the Canadian consumer, will she do something and not spend another \$70 million of taxpayers' dollars in order to fund a commission when she knows, as the Minister responsible, from her own officials, exactly what is going on in price fixing in the oil industry today?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is taking his usual simplistic approach to matters. He knows very well that this is an extremely complicated issue and that is why the oil inquiry is taking such a long time. I can assure him that I am as impatient as he is. He also knows that this is a quasi-judicial body which I must observe at arm's length, as he must. We will all have to be patient. I can assure him, however, that from all the reports that I have received thus far this is going to be a very comprehensive report that will come into our hands.

**Mr. Domm:** What about Petro-Canada?

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[Translation]

## CANADA PENSION PLAN

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the friendly Minister of National Health and Welfare. As of January 1984, the Government of what was formerly the "Belle Province" amended its pension plan to allow individuals who have reached the age of sixty and are no longer on the labour market to receive benefits under the Quebec plan, subject to a penalty, which is not the case for the Canada Pension Plan. It means that an Ontario resident, after working for the Government in Hull or Quebec throughout his life, will be able to take advantage of the benefits of the Quebec Pension Plan, while another Government employee who resides in Quebec or Hull but works in Ottawa will not be

able to take advantage of the same privileges, even if he has lived in Quebec all his life.

Could the Minister inform the House whether this is part of a federal-provincial agreement, and if so, does the Minister intend to conclude another agreement to correct this discrepancy and prevent the kind of injustice that is inflicted every day on residents in the Outaouais area who have been held hostage for some time by a Quebec government that is now complicating their lives, with some malevolence?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Complicate is perhaps the word, Mr. Speaker, because I have just found out that it takes two Quebec ministers to deal with me on health issues alone, and I say this without arrogance, of course. To answer the question about Ontario residents working in Quebec who benefit from advantages that Quebecers working here have yet to receive, I would say yes, but by a different route, because this summer the Minister of Finance and myself are going to propose to the Provinces that we amend the Canada Pension Plan to allow people to retire at an earlier age, for instance, sixty, it being understood that pension plan benefits would be prorated over five years more, which is exactly what is being done right now in Quebec.

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[English]

## EMPLOYMENT

## RETRAINING OF WOMEN AFFECTED BY TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. While technological change promises wealth, it also threatens job security for many Canadians, particularly women. One of the ways to meet the challenge of technological change is through training. Women are under represented in training programs, however; 24 per cent of training spaces are available to women, while they constitute 42 per cent of the labour force.

I should like to ask the Minister whether he is prepared to apply affirmative action principles to training in order to assure equal access for women to training and a fair chance at benefits from the technological change process.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we already do that, and we take a variety of steps to try to ensure that affirmative action in our training programs is extended to women.

**Miss MacDonald:** What a failure!

**Mr. Roberts:** This is particularly so in areas of training which have not been traditionally been available. The recommendation which the Hon. Member is making is one on which we are already active.