

action have no teeth and that they are essentially permissive rather than prescriptive or mandatory, except when a tribunal rules. The Minister knows that the Canadian Human Rights Commission cannot order affirmative action. Will the Minister, in the proposed employment equity legislation, assure that there is an obligation on the part of Crown corporations and federally regulated companies to have consistent employment equity programs?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Canadian Human Rights Commission, one of the reasons it has not been able to take action in the past with regard to inequities in employment was because it simply did not have the information available on which to initiate action. It has responded by following up on complaints. The measures that were announced the other day will make it mandatory for Crown corporations, firms doing business with the Government, and the federally regulated private sector, to file reports and returns giving the required information. If that information does not show that employment equity plans are being implemented and targets met, then the Canadian Human Rights Commission can take action on its own.

#### RESOURCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, the goal may be fixed, and it is a laudable one. However, without legal and financial clout it simply will not work. If the Minister believes that the Human Rights Commission will be able to measure that action, can she tell me if she has made provisions to give it the kind of financial and human resources it will require to meet all her very laudable expectations?

• (1500)

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her comments about these initiatives. I know they have received a great deal of support from women and minority groups across the country. I have already discussed this matter with the Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission and have assured him, if he feels he does not have sufficient resources, that he should come forward and put his request to the Government. I am sure that request will be received very sympathetically.

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#### CANADA LABOUR CODE

##### APPLICATION TO PART-TIME WORKERS

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister assured me last Friday that employment equity would apply to female part-time workers as it would to full-time workers, but she completely ignored the recommendations of the Abella and Wallace reports

#### Oral Questions

regarding benefits and protections for part-time workers. Will the Minister guarantee that the recommended changes to the Canada Labour Code will be made so that part-time workers, who now have little job security, will at least have prorated benefits and protections?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have responsibility for the Canada Labour Code. I am sympathetic to the point of view which the Hon. Member has put forward, and I will be glad to undertake ongoing discussions about this matter with the Minister of Labour.

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#### EMPLOYMENT

##### EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE—AIR CANADA POLICY

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. What action will she take to counteract the anti-equity policies of Crown corporations, such as Air Canada, which wants to force women from full-time jobs into part-time work?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept that question. As of last Friday, we announced that there would be employment equity extended to Crown corporations. I trust that the Hon. Member will give them longer than a weekend to respond to that.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### TRADE

##### STEEL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade, but in his absence I will direct it to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Last fall the United States exempted Canada from import quotas on steel. The steel market, the jobs, the steel produced in Canada, and the primary producers are very important. Since that time there has been a fairly rapid increase in the amount of steel which is exported to the United States, some of which is due to fabricators bringing semi-finished steel into Canada and subsequently selling it to United States markets. Is the Minister considering establishing a system to monitor steel movement in Canadian and United States markets?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I have no direct knowledge of any monitoring which is taking place at the present time. Certainly in my Department there is no formal monitoring. Whether there is on the trade side I am not sure, but I will inquire for the Hon. Member.