

S. O. 31

• (1410)

The riding of Saint-Denis is very lucky to be able to count on such high quality services from these organizations. Women in poverty, dealing with violence in the home or recently arrived in Canada are some of those they serve.

I take this opportunity to draw attention to the fine work done by these organizations and encourage them to continue their efforts.

[English]

Canadians only stand to benefit from the full contribution of women in our society. This struggle for equality does not seek to condemn men but to work with them in creating, as our slogan for this year says, a world of equality.

[Translation]

There is still a way to go before equality is achieved, but women's voices are being heard; we cannot ignore them any longer. One day, equality will become reality.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jean H. Leroux (Shefford, BQ): Mr. Speaker, this year, Quebec will experience a shortfall of \$118 million in unemployment insurance.

In the past, federalists sang the praises of Canadian federalism saying that Quebec was a net beneficiary of the unemployment insurance program. The fact is that Quebec's rate of unemployment under the federal scheme is systematically higher than Canada's. This is what we get out of federalism.

The government in Ottawa is hindering job creation in Quebec, in particular, by putting only 15.9 per cent of its investments there, although 23 per cent of its revenues come from there.

Not only did the latest budget hinder job creation by precluding the transfer to Quebec of full powers in manpower training, but it proposed no active job creation measures.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, this morning Canadians read about a woman who came to Canada from the United States and then claimed refugee status. She was turned down and removed back to the U.S. until she could get a taxpayer funded legal aid assisted appeal.

The initial hearing stage took so long that the claimant now has a two and one-half year old daughter born in Canada who is

a Canadian citizen. This child will have to remain in Canada while her mother is removed to the U.S.

The Reform Party would never have allowed this travesty to occur. We would not accept refugee claimants from the United States. We would not allow claims to go on and on for two and one-half years. We would not allow children born of illegal immigrants to automatically acquire Canadian citizenship.

The minister calls our proposals hard hearted. In fact, these measures would have prevented this latest immigration outrage and would have saved taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. If this government had the interests of genuine refugees and taxpayers at heart, it would adopt our proposals and stop a system that encourages abuse.

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SKATING COACH HAROLD SHER

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Harold Sher. Mr. Sher has been a precision skating coach in my riding for the past 15 years. His most recent competition epitomizes the success he has enjoyed.

Sher's four teams from the Bracebridge figure skating club made a clean sweep of first-place finishes at the northern Ontario sectional and invitational competition held last month. The four teams came away with eight gold medals. This outstanding success qualifies the teams for the Canadian championships to be held in Calgary later this spring. Last year his adult team, the Muskoka Blades, won silver at this championship, while his junior blades won gold in the consolation round.

I wish Harold and all of the skaters the best of luck as they go for gold in Calgary next month.

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HAVELOCK COUNTRY JAMBOREE

Mr. Peter Adams (Peterborough, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, August 10 of this year will be the first day of the sixth annual Havelock Country Jamboree. It kicks off country music week in Peterborough city and county.

The jamboree is a success story in our region. It is a show-place for musical talent. It is a boost for local businesses. It attracts thousands of tourists to and generates publicity for the Peterborough area.

Last year the jamboree helped Havelock minor hockey, St. John Ambulance, the scouts, the Terry Fox run, the March of Dimes and the local food bank.

It is great that grassroots ventures like the Havelock Country Jamboree can generate so many benefits simply by bringing pleasure to thousands of people. Our thanks to Jack Blakely and all his helpers.