

*Oral Questions*

Mr. Gallery's letter of July 5, 1989 to CN is a matter of public record. It is also a matter of public record that, in addition to carrying advertising by CN, Mr. Gallery's magazine *Seaports and the Shipping World* also carries advertising for Government of Canada Crown corporations, including four pilotage authorities, seven port corporations and Ports Canada, every one a Crown corporation that reports to the Minister of Transport.

My question is straightforward. Can the minister ascertain whether or not any of these other Crown corporations which report directly to the minister have been subject to any of the same kind of letters or attempts to squeeze extra advertising dollars out of them for Mr. Brian Gallery's magazines?

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no basis for the latter part of the question and, left as it is, it stands in substitution of a charge. The hon. member knows that that is not appropriate. The hon. minister may want to reply, but I am saying that the question, as asked, is out of order.

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**STATUS OF WOMEN**

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for the status of women. In a report today to the United Nations, this government will attempt to gloss over the gross inequities for women in Canada. Will the minister admit that Canadian women not only are poorer than ever, but that the GST and UI cuts and over-all increased living costs are increasing not decreasing discrimination against women in Canada?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, far from admitting any such thing, I think the hon. member has to admit that Canadian women are better off today than they were five years ago by quite a long way, that there are fewer women living in poverty today, and that our employment equity is helping women in the workplace.

Last week the President of the Treasury Board announced the most fair pay equity plan that we have seen in this country and yes, women are better off. This does not suggest that we do not have some problems. I would remind the hon. member that her party did not bring in

the kind of pay equity that we did and we are looking forward to more progress for women, not less.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how closely the minister has looked at the pay equity provisions that were announced last Friday, but they are pretty poor and they are fractional as opposed to the needs of Canadian women. The minister should know that and so should the President of Treasury Board.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same minister.

What steps does she intend to take to finance new programs designed to help women in Canada, and especially the National Day Care Program.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the government set up a day care program, and the Liberal senators blocked it! It is not our fault—it's the other place—

[*English*]

This government continues to be committed to women, and we have made progress continually for women. We have broadened the base of support for women, not just through the women's program but through health and welfare and our initiatives on family violence, and through the nearly \$400 million of pay equity program that was announced last week by the President of the Treasury Board. The hon. member should be applauding what has been going on for women in this country instead of complaining.

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**BANK OF CANADA**

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Today's increase of 30 base points in the bank rate is bad news for all Canadians. That increase puts us back to May 1989 levels. It hurts farmers, it hurts small business people, it hurts home buyers, it hurts the poorer regions of this country.

When is the Minister of Finance going to assume his responsibility, tell the Governor of the Bank of Canada that enough is enough, you are hurting Canada, and roll back the interest rate?