

Enterprise Program announced in the Budget will help companies in the Atlantic regions to lower their borrowing costs and provide them with special loan insurance.

The Atlantic Opportunities Program, announced by the Hon. Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. McInnes), will increase the amount of goods and services purchased from Atlantic Canada firms, identify and pursue opportunities for purchasing and subcontracting from Atlantic Canada which arise from large-scale procurements, and develop Atlantic Canada firms to respond competitively to federal purchasing needs.

The goal is to increase federal purchases from Atlantic Canada by \$600 million over the next four years to a total of \$2.2 billion. This increase will generate over 20,000 person-years of new employment, or an average of 5,000 jobs a year. And that is good news for Atlantic Canada.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

APOLOGY FOR USE OF TERM "WELCHING"

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, on February 26 I was exploring whether I had committed a racial slur when I accused the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) of "welching" on the people of Canada. I indicated that the Oxford Dictionary did not regard the expression "welch" as a pejorative but that Webster's Dictionary suggested that it was.

I would like now to refer to a very important authority, William Safire, who, in a recent article in *The New York Times* on February 23, took Webster's position. I, therefore, want to apologize to the House and to the Welsh-Canadian community for using that expression.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Canadian women during this International Women's Week. This is a time to look ahead at new challenges. All Hon. Members of this House recently received a copy of the Nairobi *Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women*, the document adopted at the World Conference held last summer to mark the end of the UN Decade For Women.

This is a comprehensive and path-finding document. It includes practical guidelines to advance the status of women in all aspects of life, social, economic, legal, and cultural. Canada played a key role in seeing this document come into being and in ensuring its adoption by consensus. It is up to us all in this House to ensure that Canada leads the way in implementing these forward-looking strategies.

Oral Questions

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

LEVEL OF TAXES PAID BY FAMILIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and of the Minister of Finance, who are desperately trying to rescue a very weak Budget—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):—my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. I hope she has recovered from her pulmonary problem of yesterday.

Why is it that a family with total revenues of \$15,000 will pay 23 per cent more in taxes in the next four years, on the basis of forecasts and documents from the Department of Finance, while a family with total revenues of \$200,000 will pay an increase of only 1 per cent more? Is that the Minister's interpretation of the Prime Minister's definition of fairness?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think that the fairness in the Budget is self-evident. The measures we have introduced for lower-income families are more than any Government has introduced for a long time. The sales tax refund, the child tax credit, and the child tax credit early payment direct our fairness measures exactly to where they are needed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TAXES PAYABLE BY WIDOW WITH ANNUAL INCOME OF \$10,000

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of State for Finance why it is that the total taxes for an elderly widow living on \$10,000 a year will rise by \$160 this year. Does the Minister feel that this widow can find the money to pay that tax from her old age pension?

Mr. Gauthier: Is that fair?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, under this Government the taxes paid by people in low-income brackets have actually gone down.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. McDougall: I suggest that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition take another look.