

*S.O. 21*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21**

[*Translation*]

**TRADE****EXPORTS OF CANADIAN LUMBER TO UNITED STATES—  
POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING SURTAX**

**Mr. Henri Tousignant (Témiscamingue):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be able to inform the House and the Canadian public that, thanks to constant efforts by the industry and the Canadian Government and the negotiations conducted by our colleague, the Minister of State (International Trade) (Mr. Regan), this morning at 9:30, the U.S. Department of Commerce made a preliminary decision to the effect that it did not consider there were sufficient grounds to levy a surtax on Canadian lumber exports to the United States. This preliminary decision is to be reviewed on May 23, when a final decision will be made, and we have every reason to believe that the initial decision will not be reversed. Otherwise, Madam Speaker, some 70,000 Canadians would be in danger of losing their jobs. There is therefore reason to rejoice.

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[*English*]

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY****EMPHASIS ON THEME: "WOMEN AS SURVIVORS"**

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** Today is International Women's Day, a day when women in cities across Canada and most western countries commemorate women's struggle for economic equality. The theme for this year's commemoration is "Women as Survivors", Madam Speaker. This theme is most appropriate when we examine the plight of working women in Canada. Over 50 per cent of all women, single or married, are in the paid labour force, 67 per cent of all women under 45 years of age.

From January, 1982, to January, 1983, the unemployment rate among women rose by 43.4 per cent for a total of 605,000 Canadian women. To the problems posed by the current economic devastation in Canada, we must add the tremendous threat which the impending high technology revolution poses for women. Because women are concentrated in the clerical

and sales occupations which are most likely to be affected by the new technology, as many as one million jobs presently performed by women may disappear by 1990. Of course the new technology promises to bring with it new jobs, but the skills gap between the old jobs and the new ones is often too great to be bridged by on the job training and personal initiative alone.

The Government must begin to put in place retraining programs which are specifically targeted at the groups most affected by the high tech change. As I have indicated, one of the hardest hit groups will be women. Lest the Government not be overly concerned about the effects of massive unemployment among women, let me point out that if all of the women in two-income earning families lost their jobs—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —the number of Canadian families—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Do it again. It might have been all right.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Cut off at the pass.

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[*Translation*]

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY****FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR WOMEN**

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel):** Madam Speaker, in New York City on March 8, 1908, women working in the garment industry took to the streets to demand abolition of the working conditions that had caused the death of 128 workers at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City.

In 1911, delegates to an international conference in Copenhagen proposed that March 8 be set aside as the day on which the demonstration would be commemorated.

Eighteen years before Canada recognized women as persons, women workers throughout the world were meeting on this date to mark their contribution to the labour market.

Today, on the 72nd International Women's Day, the Federal Government has published a brochure called *The Government of Canada and Women*. It is a guide to all federal programs and services offered to women. The brochure is available from the Canadian Unity Information Office, by whom it was prepared.

The Federal Government has always defended the principle of equal rights for women, and by publishing this brochure, it hopes that women will become aware and take advantage of the many services, programs and studies the Government has