

Order Paper Questions

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—CAREER UPGRADING PROGRAMS

Question No. 349—**Mr. Howard:**

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, in co-operation with provinces and territories, develop policies and practices that will result in (a) an increase in the number of women undertaking educational upgrading programmes and training for more highly skilled occupations, (b) the enrolment of women in courses in line with their capacities without regard to sex-typing of occupations, (c) an increase in the number of women training for managerial and technical positions, and (d) the consideration by women of the whole spectrum of occupations before choosing training courses?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): A number of steps have been taken by the Department of Manpower and Immigration to implement a policy of encouraging women to consider occupations outside the traditional female ones, and to refer such clients to a broader range of occupations for training and for employment. These steps include the following: A career information service in Canada Manpower Centres is being strengthened by an extensive program to produce reliable and detailed data on current and future manpower requirements and supply, by an automated client information system, by the development of a computer-assisted career counselling system, and by other measures. A position has been established at the Department's Headquarters to provide advice and functional guidance in the matter of employment problems of women. Regarding the sex-typing of occupations, the Department issued instructions to the field to consider female clients for a wider range of courses and to bring these courses to the attention of clients. Further action planned on this matter includes the advising of CMC counsellors to encourage female clients to consider occupations outside traditional female ones; to refer such clients to a broader range of occupations for employment; to ensure that sex-typing of occupations does not occur in its publications or advertising messages; to ensure that its publications will encourage women to consider a broad range of occupations in keeping with the individual's interests and abilities.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—EXPANSION OF CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM

Question No. 350—**Mr. Howard:**

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that the federal government, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, extend the present system of student loans to include part-time students?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The subject of assistance to part-time students is under active consideration by the federal government in close consultation with all provincial governments.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Question No. 351—**Mr. Howard:**

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that the federal government, in co-operation with the provinces, provide through the

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

Occupational Training for Adults programme (a) training courses which will lead to a diploma for visiting homemakers for emergency assistance, the planning of which will be in conjunction with local welfare agencies, and (b) training courses leading to a diploma for household workers other than visiting homemakers?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Courses for various categories of household workers, including homemakers have been purchased under the CMTP. Because of the generally poor economic and social status of these occupations, the Department of Manpower and Immigration feels that further expansion of training depends on such factors as the improvement of labour standards and working conditions, market demand and earnings. The Department is prepared to enter into discussions with voluntary organizations and provincial agencies with a view to establishing a plan of action for improving conditions in these occupations.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—RETRAINING OF RURAL PEOPLE

Question No. 352—**Mr. Howard:**

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that women be given the same opportunity as men to participate in any programmes at present or in the future, that are sponsored by government for the retraining and rehabilitation of rural people, such as those begun under the Agricultural and Rural Development Act (ARDA)?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The Adult Occupational Training Act, as amended July 1, 1972 provides that an adult who has not attended school on a regular basis for any period of at least twelve months, at any time since attaining provincial school leaving age, may apply to a manpower officer for occupational training, and the manpower officer may arrange training suitable for that adult, that will increase his or her earning capacity or opportunities for employment.

Further, the Canada Agricultural Manpower Committee, a federal-provincial body, has accepted the task of informing and encouraging rural Canadians, particularly farmers, vis-à-vis the availability and value of agricultural training courses which may be undertaken within the Canada Manpower Training Program, in co-operation with the respective Provincial departments of agriculture and education. The principles this committee has accepted include the need to re-structure courses to meet the needs of women, and to offer training priority to the farm-family partner who has primary responsibilities for the functions covered by the training undertaken. More-over all women, both rural and urban dwellers, may apply for training under the Canada Manpower Training Program and be considered for training that is commensurate with their abilities and aspirations.

As concerns the Agricultural and Rural Development Act, it has been and will continue to be the policy and practice of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to attempt to ensure that women are given the same opportunity as men in relation to retraining and rehabilitation available under ARDA and other programs affecting rural people. ARDA cost-sharing agreements signed with the various provinces contain specific clauses to safeguard against discrimination in employment by reason of race, sex, religion, national origin, color, or