

• (1550)

Sometimes this sounds like an impossible dream. However, with this vision to guide us, we can bring about positive changes within our own lifetimes, changes that the generations which come after us may build upon and benefit from. That is the vision and there are concrete steps we can take toward that vision.

We can stop deporting women back to situations where they face abuse and death at the hands of their husbands or at the hands of the state. We can establish a national child care program and provide support for parents at home. We can make training and education more accessible by lowering financial barriers. We can implement pay equity. We can channel our resources away from the military, away from military helicopters, away from security intelligence and government waste toward services which invest in the skills and health of our population.

In her statement the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women said that the right to food, shelter, property, social security, health care, employment and the right to live without violence should apply equally to women and men. But they do not.

Yet her government's actions, the cutbacks to social assistance, cutbacks to housing programs, cutbacks to health care, cutbacks to child care and training programs, cutbacks to shelters for battered women and the Secretary of State women's program, these regressive actions speak far louder than her words.

The minister said that Canada has been a leader internationally on the human rights of women. However, her government is deporting refugee women who are fleeing domestic or state violence and gender-based persecution. Over the weekend *The Globe and Mail* documented the personal situations of 14 refugee women who were here in Canada, some of them in hiding. This government is determined to deport them back to those unsafe conditions in their homeland, back into the hands of abusive men who control their lives. Eighty per cent of the world's refugees are women and children, yet two-thirds of the refugees that Canada accepts are male.

The minister's words will be weighed against the lives of all of these women and children. She cited the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women as her

Routine Proceedings

government's effort to deal with violence. Again she is confusing words with action. Battered women cannot receive shelter or safety at the offices of the panel when they are turned away from an overflowing, underfunded shelter for battered women. Actions, not words will lead us closer to our vision of equality.

On this International Women's Day, March 8, 1993, if I have one wish, it is a wish that working together we could acknowledge the fundamental inequality in our society. We could move forward in a systematic way that addresses those underlying reasons why women are at the bottom of the social and economic scale, both in Canada and internationally and make a commitment among all of us in this House of Commons to work together to change that.

* * *

[*Translation*]

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRENCH-SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS

REPORT OF CANADIAN SECTION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian section of the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians on the meeting of the board of the parliamentary affairs committee held in Paris on February 3, 1993.

* * *

• (1555)

[*English*]

PETITIONS

DRUG PRICES

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to present two petitions, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The first one is from a large number of residents across Canada. The petitioners point out to the government that drug costs are going up dramatically because of the abolition of licensing procedures for generic drugs. They request that the government repeal Bill C-22 and not proceed with Bill C-91. Of course as it has now passed, the government should repeal Bill C-91.