

women for the technological changes and new careers by way of a combination of fiscal incentives, grants and other means. The Progressive Conservative Party even promised business women, if it were elected, to ensure the availability of various information and support programs in the area of economics and financing for business women, women in small and medium-sized businesses and women associates. There is no need to add that we are greatly concerned about the upcoming budget, because judging from all those promises, I am sure the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will have a special program for women getting into business and for small and medium-sized businesses.

• (1600)

I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that after nine months in power, I appreciate that all this is not fully implemented. However, since almost nothing has been undertaken, which makes us wonder whether the promises made by the Right Honourable Prime Minister were only hot air, although the Government has put forward timid proposals for equality in employment for women, it does not seem ready to look at women's work in a more general context.

The Progressive Conservative Party often has the unhappy habit of looking at problems through the wrong end of the telescope. Solving women's labour problems does not mean restrict its effort to the work-place as such.

It is a well known fact that working women very often assume by themselves the responsibility for the children. Day care is not a luxury but sometimes a basic organizational necessity today. Canada does not have even half the number of places in nurseries requested by Canadian women. We know that in the year 2000, 90 per cent of Canadian women will be on the labour market not as a luxury or for their comfort but out of necessity. That is why day care is a priority. Once again, we hope that in the budget, a week or two from now, there will be a specific provision on day care.

Mr. Speaker, I will remind you once again if I may a promise made by the Progressive Conservative Party during the last election campaign concerning day care: The party undertakes to find quickly some realistic and efficient answers to that emergency. Our party will play a leadership role to improve the sharing of responsibilities between mother, father and society. With the co-operation of business, unions and provinces, the party will promote the development of innovative programs, especially in the working place.

As we mentioned earlier, we are still expecting the report of Mrs. Katy Cook and government members have told us that there is a special task force on day care. I am quite willing to have a special task force on day care, but it is still more important to read the report and recommendations before setting up another task force.

Mr. Speaker, Canadian women are eagerly waiting for the Prime Minister to show the leadership he promised. Apparently, the Canadian people did not elect a passionate champion of day care on September 4 last but rather someone who likes to bargain to such an extent that he took the liberty of advising presidents Reagan and Mitterrand in Bonn.

Supply

If the Prime Minister is not a passionate champion of day care, he does not support more eagerly transition houses for battered women and children. This is perhaps too far outside his concerns. I heard the Minister responsible for the status of women say a while ago that there would be a meeting of federal and provincial ministers on violence in the family. I quite agree but I would like to add that all those federal-provincial meetings on the status of women were initiated by the

Liberal government. Well, the Liberal government can be accused of every defect, but I think that as far as the status of women is concerned, the Liberal government can boast many substantial accomplishments.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me quote to you what Canadian women were told during the last election campaign concerning these shelters:

The Progressive Conservative Party will make improvements to and increase the effectiveness of all federal programs dealing with public information, transition houses, accommodation and support of victims of family and social violence, whether they are battered women or abused children.

I hope, therefore, that during the forthcoming federal-provincial meeting, the federal Government will lead the way, failing which we would be very disappointed and get the impression that although he was very good at making promises during the last election campaign, the Prime Minister of Canada is not very good now at fulfilling them.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in his speech, the Hon. Member from Baie-Comeau misrepresented reality. When we consider what is happening in the case of Indian women, as our committee is currently dealing with Bill C-31, we realize that the Government has decided that Indian women will be reinstated on the bands' membership but that their children will not, a situation which is entirely unacceptable. Also, I think the divorce legislation is quite good, but this is again a Liberal initiative. Concerning prostitution and the Fraser report, Mr. Fraser had emphasized during a press conference that the Government should not single out a particular recommendation and implement it; yet, that is exactly what the Government is doing, interpreting as it pleases and implementing the recommendation on soliciting, which I find also entirely unacceptable, in spite of the fact that the President of the Progressive Conservative Party in British Columbia stated last weekend that prostitution is very important and that the desire to procreate being so strong, men absolutely need prostitutes to satisfy it and also get rid of the violence they feel for one another. In view of all this, I seriously wonder what will be the destiny of this Bill in the House. There is also part-time work. It is a fact that the majority of women have part-time jobs. We also hope that the next Budget will contain a special recommendation that women be given fringe benefits proportional to the number of hours they work. It is a fact in 1985 that 72 per cent of part-time jobs are held by women, but with the new technology, men will also be affected by technological change and will have to work part-time. However, at the present time, because of the economic situation, 72 per cent of women have