

the Government's responsibility to bring in legislation right now to increase the GIS in order to rectify their situation.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there any other questions? The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State For Mines (Mrs. Killens).

[Translation]

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I too am a bit impatient with the way various levels of government are dragging their feet with respect to this issue. I deplore the fact that the situation of women in this country, and I am sure Members on both sides of the House are more or less agreed on what it should be, is the subject of debate on an Opposition day, since we are all aware that such days merely give Opposition Members a chance to unload their very negative thinking on a given subject.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I intend to make my comments in the same positive spirit that will pervade International Women's Day tomorrow, March 8.

This morning, we heard the Minister of State (Mines) (Mrs. Erola), who is responsible for the status of women, describe before the House the latest initiatives taken by our Government, and I must admit it is a very impressive record. To appreciate our progress, however, we must look back into the past, and when we do, we see that there was a lot to be done. There are memories of the celebrated struggle in the 20's, when in 1929, after a long fight, women finally became legal persons. In 1940, when I was still at school, I did not realize my mother was not allowed to vote in provincial elections in Quebec. That same year, the first woman to study law in Quebec had to go to New Brunswick to pass her bar examinations. She was not allowed to do so in Quebec. Furthermore, it was not until 1971 that women in Quebec were allowed to sit on a jury.

We cannot discuss the status of women in Quebec without recalling the tireless efforts of the Hon. Senator Thérèse Casgrain, and it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to her here today. I am sure that if she were among us, she would denounce the injustice perpetrated on Quebec women through Bill 111, which hits women far more than it does men, since two-thirds of Quebec teachers are women. The Government of Quebec invoked the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to pass Bill 111, a bill that violates the rights of teachers in Quebec. The Federal Government trusted the provinces to act honourably, but we see now that Quebec has already shamefully abused the notwithstanding clause.

As far as pensions are concerned, however, Quebec has an exclusion clause in its pension plan which allows young mothers to stay home for seven years to raise their children, without losing any years for the purposes of the pension plan.

S.O. 21

Mr. Speaker, today, we should take advantage of this opportunity to appeal to all Canadian women, wherever they may be, to take action immediately. Elsewhere in Canada we have a problem. In order to allow young mothers to stay home for seven years after the birth of a child, without losing pension continuity, the Federal Government needs the signature of two-thirds of the provincial Governments representing two-thirds of the Canadian population.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry I have to interrupt the Parliamentary Secretary. 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]

#### THE ADMINISTRATION

##### METHOD TO CORRECT ERRORS

**Mr. Louis R. Desmarais (Dollard):** Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that a serious injustice has been done. I am referring to a taxpayer who applied to Employment Canada for permission to add an employee to his staff. The Department agreed, the employer hired a new employee and he received the requested subsidy for two years. Madam Speaker, I think it is unfair that two years later, another department, namely, Revenue Canada, should claim the subsidy under one of the Income Tax Regulations of which neither Employment Canada nor the taxpayer were aware.

Madam Speaker, when a department unwittingly misleads a taxpayer, I think the Government should be flexible and refrain from making the taxpayer pay for its mistakes. I realize that ignorance of the law is not a valid excuse, but I do believe it is reasonable to assume that a citizen should be able to rely on a department that enables him to take certain legitimate action.

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[English]

#### BROADCASTING

##### CONDEMNATION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILM PROGRAMMING

**Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North):** Madam Speaker, some time ago a corporation which was granted a licence by