

S.O. 21

[Translation]

WOMEN

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO KEY JOBS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, during this special week for women, I would like to comment on the Government's record with respect to appointing women to key positions.

As far as principles go, Conservatives are sometimes hard to beat, but when it comes to action, the record is less than impressive. As an example, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a press release my office received yesterday morning: "The Minister of State (Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism) (Mr. Jelinek) announced that ten Canadian businessmen had agreed to sit on the Board of Directors of a new agency created by the Minister to increase financial support from the private sector for amateur sport."

You heard me correctly: ten businessmen and not a single woman!

Need I remind the Conservative Government that women are fed up with hollow promises? What we want, Mr. Speaker, is this: half of everything!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

USE OF CERTAIN EPITHETS IN CHAMBER

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Duvernay): Mr. Speaker, further to yesterday's incident which affected more particularly my compatriot and political adversary, the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi), I want to say that as a member of the Italian community, I am opposed to such discriminatory remarks being addressed to Italian Canadians.

Nevertheless, I am sure that my colleagues and my party do not believe that all Italian sounding names mean the bearers of those names should be qualified as "mafiosos".

As was remarked recently in the House, I am positive that the comments of my hon. friend from Nunatsiak (Mr. Suluk) hardly reflected his thinking. We occasionally hear comments of this kind which have often become a conditioned reflex among the public, based on the number of social prejudices fed by false mythology and film fiction, and I am thinking here of "The Godfather". I am sure the incident is now closed.

● (1410)

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

PART-TIME FARMERS—CALL FOR REPEAL OF SECTION 31

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, during the 1984 election campaign one of the major commitments made by the Conservatives was that Section 31 of the Income Tax Act, at the very least, would be reformed. This Section of the Act applies to those who are part time farmers, those who must work off the farm in order to sustain themselves financially. After a year and a half of the Conservatives being in office, nothing has been done. This was another promise made and another promise broken.

When the chief source of income is derived from farming, all business losses are deductible. When the chief source of income is not from farming, the restrictions of Section 31 apply which allow only a maximum deduction of some \$5,000.

Given the enormous number of family farms in desperate financial condition and the low price many farmers receive for the commodities they produce, Section 31 becomes an additional penalty for many who have had to seek off-farm employment just to survive. If the Government has any interest in preserving family farms, especially in these current hard economic times, it will abolish Section 31.

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THE BUDGET

SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONS

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, the Budget is so good that even Jean Chrétien is going into private business. No doubt, others will follow. After the next federal election it is more than likely that Canadian voters will give all members of the Opposition the opportunity of joining Mr. Chrétien and becoming entrepreneurs.

Whether it likes it or not, the Opposition cannot change the fact that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has presented a Budget which eases the burden on lower-income Canadians, while providing them with the benefit of an economy that is, after 20 years of neglect, once again starting to live up to its potential. Most important, small-businessmen in Canada finally have a solid financial footing which will allow their enterprises to grow, prosper, and create jobs. This is the kind of Budget that helps all Canadians, even opposition Members.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMS TO ASSIST ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, last week the Government announced two very important programs for Atlantic Canada. The special \$1 billion Atlantic