

We are also seeing this year a loss of economic rights by women as a result of de-indexation of family allowances and the child tax credit. Equal sharing in pension benefits has yet to be achieved by women.

[English]

In short, for women to be fully and genuinely equal persons in Canada, we have much work yet to accomplish, and the work of this House must be a good part of it.

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THE ECONOMY GROWTH IN STRENGTH

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, the Economic Council of Canada sees good times ahead. The Canadian economy has been showing growing signs of strength since the election of the Progressive Conservative Government in September, 1984. Employment is up—304,000 new jobs have been created. Interest rates are down. Investor confidence is strengthening. Consumer spending is rising. Prices are stable. Bankruptcies are down. The Canadian economy is outperforming the American economy. Our Gross National Product is up 4.1 per cent. Unemployment is the lowest in many years; it is down to 10.1 per cent. Youth unemployment has fallen to 16.1 per cent. The Bank of Canada rate is down to 8.7 per cent. At the time of the election it was 12.7 per cent. It is at its lowest level in many years. Housing starts are up.

In general, the Government has created a climate of confidence in Canada because of such achievements as the Western Accord and the Atlantic Accord.

Mr. Skelly: What about the weather?

An Hon. Member: It is sunny.

Mr. Kindy: We in the Conservative Party have confidence in Canada.

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[Translation]

WOMEN

FIGHT FOR EQUALITY—ROLE PLAYED BY CERTAIN CANADIAN WOMEN

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 1929, after a lengthy legal battle Canadian women were granted the status of "person". On the fifty-sixth anniversary of this event which marks a milestone in the struggle of women for equal rights and opportunities, we honour the memory of five Alberta women who presented a petition requesting those rights.

In the Person Case, they asked that Section 24 of the British North America Act be interpreted in such a way that the words "qualified Persons" would also apply to women. The

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implications of the decision were immense. In fact, without a favourable interpretation, women could not be called to the Senate and were thus prevented from participating fully in our parliamentary system of government.

The "famous five"—Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards—took their case to the Supreme Court of Canada, expecting a favourable decision. Nine months later, the Supreme Court ruled against their petition, thus dashing their hopes.

However, the "famous five" were stubborn and decided to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the court of last resort for Canada at the time.

October 18, 1929 was a red-letter day for Canadian women. On that date, after four days of deliberations, the British Chancellor, Lord Sankey, declared that Section 24 included members of the male and female sex—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but her time has expired.

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● (1115)

[English]

THE PRESS

ARTICLE'S DESCRIPTION OF EDMONTON CONDEMNED

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of all eastern Canadians to apologize to the people of Edmonton for the untrue, intemperate, and uncalled for description of their fair city as a "used building lot" in *The New York Times*.

As a new Member of Parliament I saw Edmonton for the first time last fall and was incredibly impressed, not only with the natural beauty of the city but also with the cosmopolitan flavour of a city that has managed a graceful combination of old and new.

As a Hamiltonian who often faces disparaging comments about my city from outsiders who have never taken up the challenge of visiting Hamilton, I want to say to the people of Edmonton that Mordecai Richler does not speak for eastern Canada.

Your city is a beautiful one and one that deserves applause, not derision.

This kind of internecine squabbling in *The New York Times* does nothing to enhance the interests of our great country as a whole, nor of beautiful cities like Edmonton.

Mayor Decore, hold your head high. As for *The New York Times*, we want equal time to tell the Americans "like it really is".