

at the source of the oil, where it comes out of the ground, and that not all will take place in Central Canada or some other area. We need a broader economic base in the West, and better transportation and national policies, so that the West can become more economically stable, so that growth is more steady.

In Western Canada we have moved beyond the time of the old national policy. We want to rewrite that old national policy devised by the Conservative Government of Sir John A. Macdonald a hundred years ago. It was a scheme to secure the growth and development of the Central region of the country. That was perfectly reasonable in the 1870s, when the vast majority of Canadians lived east of the Great Lakes. Under that original national policy the great and empty northwest was to be a supplier of primary resources for the flourishing industries further east. Eventually, too, the West would develop into a sort of captive market for Eastern manufactured goods. The tariff structure, economic development programs, population projections and railway construction were all factors geared to fit in with Sir John's national policy, and it worked reasonably well. But Westerners believe that the time has arrived for changes.

It is now a hundred years later, and Canada has outgrown that old design. The right policy of the 1870s is no longer appropriate in 1974. The task begun at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference was no less than the redrafting of the national policy, and in the Speech from the Throne we have fresh evidence of a government sympathetic to Western aspirations and needs, and our new dreams. I find it disappointing that some partisans have tended to take such a negative view of all the progress we have made in the West over these past few months.

Stretching as it does over 4,000 miles, this nation of ours requires a great abundance of tolerance and understanding on the part of all citizens, wherever they live. No one has ever regarded Confederation as perfect, and it may be a temptation for some to exploit regional differences for their own narrow aims and ambitions, but it is to be hoped, honourable senators, that most men and women who serve in public life will follow the other more positive course, that they will make a conscious effort to strengthen the bonds of national unity, and will attempt to emphasize the good and positive reasons for a united Canada to continue in existence.

In conclusion, I want to make reference to the advances proposed for the women of Canada. For some time I served as parliamentary secretary in the department with a responsibility for the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, and I welcome the statement in the Speech from the Throne that the women of Canada are going to make further progress towards full equality—equality they have not enjoyed up to the present time. I think Canadians will welcome the proposal to remove the difference in treatment as between men and women presently in the Canada Pension Plan. Fair-minded Canadians will applaud additional amendments, the purpose of which will be to provide equal treatment for women.

The sense of frustration and injustice that has sparked the virtual social revolution at present being supported by women in Canada has its roots, perhaps, even in fields as yet not too well known to the women themselves. The

failure of economists and statisticians to include as a national asset, for purposes of assessing the national product, the value of unpaid services provided by women in their own homes, and the failure to consider women working in their own homes as persons actively employed in the labour force, have contributed to a state of affairs that is somewhat paradoxical.

Let me illustrate with a tongue-in-cheek four-line verse that appeared recently in the *Canada Labour Gazette*, a publication well worth reading, in a column headed, "From the Women's Bureau." It concerns the labour force components.

Through women in labour,
Life keeps on its course;
But mothers don't count
In the labour force?

In so far as the omission of unpaid domestic services from the calculation of national income is concerned, the paradoxical state of affairs was illustrated by a noted economist, A.C. Pigou, in his work "The Economics of Welfare," when he gave the following example:

If a number of bachelors who were employing housekeepers in the customary manner of exchanging services for money, decided to marry these housekeepers, then the national dividend would be diminished. Obviously the housekeeper, when assuming the role of a wife, regardless of any additional services she assumed by virtue of her marriage, continued to perform those services which she, as a housekeeper, had been performing previously. In other words, the services continued but the value disappeared.

● (1540)

So there is a view, held increasingly by Canadians, both men and women—and I share the view—that housewives should be considered as members of the active labour force while the value of their domestic services should be included as part of the gross national product.

Social benefits as well as statistical and economic good sense would grow from a revision of established procedures relating to the present methods of computing the size of the active labour force. The belittling of the role of the housewife or homemaker, however she is described, has been responsible in no small part for many of the dissatisfactions being expressed by women.

By being made part of the active work force, housewives would also be eligible for certain social security benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan. These are presently reserved for those who decide to seek employment outside the home. We have a paradox today in the case of a girl who works on the so-called active labour force, and who then becomes married and raises her family. During the period when she is at home performing this vital social work she has no opportunity at all to contribute to the Canada Pension Plan. She returns to the work force when the family is grown up, but as far as Canada is concerned she simply was not in existence during that period when she performed her contribution to society in the home.

I know that there may be certain actuarial problems associated with the implementation of such a modification of the Canada Pension Plan, but I hope that we are going