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also put women in a pension scheme so that they can have a reasonable retirement age.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The rules permit a period of questions and answers at this point.

Mr. Breau: Mr. Speaker, while I recognize that women still suffer inequities in the system which, unfortunately, we have had to carry on as a result of historical development, to hear the Hon. Member say that we need action to respond to the needs of women, one would be led to believe that nothing has been done at all by the federal Government with regard to meeting the needs of women.

I wonder if the Hon. Member is aware that the Canada Community Services Program has 38 projects representing over \$1 million for funded rehabilitation centres; 31 projects related to daycare at a cost of close to \$750,000; and 23 projects at a cost of some \$609,000 which are similar to the Big Brother-Sister counselling, for example, which is the sort of thing that women want to get involved in because they are related to the needs of the community. I mention that 70 per cent of the employees of all such projects are women.

Another \$1.7 million has been allocated to over 60 projects—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member, he could be recognized to make his own speech. I suggest he make his point or put his question.

Mr. Breau: I want to ask the Hon. Member if he has made himself aware of all the programs of the Government that do respond to the needs of women in the community and also create employment for women. This is one example of Government programs which do that.

Mr. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for apprising me of all those wonderful programs. In my particular constituency there are 10,000 people who are on Unemployment Insurance, many of whom are women. Many others have stopped looking for work. There are probably 2,000 people on welfare. The pittance in job-creation programs that the Hon. Member talks about has no impact on the majority of the workers in my riding. There is no significant impact, compared with what this Government is spending on Dome Petroleum or Massey-Ferguson and other companies getting massive amounts of money. The same amounts of money are not being spent to improve the economy of this country.

Mr. Schroder: Mr. Speaker, what concerns me is the implication that this Government is not interested in the plight of women. I would like to draw to the attention of the House that the New Democratic Party has not one woman Member in the House today. While there may be all kinds of reasons for that, I think it is obvious one should be careful about implying motives to this Party when at least we have two women Members present. I might also say that all women Members of the Official Opposition are not present today.

An Hon. Member: Two out of twelve.

Mr. Schroder: The Hon. Member made allegations with regard to the six and five program—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With respect to the Parliamentary Secretary, reference to the absence or presence of Members is not a practice generally encouraged in the House. Does he wish to make a point or ask a question?

An Hon. Member: The rules prohibit it, in fact.

Mr. Schroder: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the last Member, who spoke about the six and five program, that Bill C-131 which had to do with Old Age Security and Bill C-132 which had to do with Family Allowances both of which were passed in this House, endeavoured to get the inflation rate down to 6 and 5 per cent so that all Canadians, not only women, would find that they could cope much better.

I wonder if the Hon. Member has forgotten that that six and five program is working and the inflation rate is below 6 per cent. I agree that the plight of single women in this country is desperate, and we should certainly be doing something about it; but I do not think it does this House any good to talk about the idea that those Bills were not doing something to help the plight of women.

Mr. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am not at all convinced that it is the six and five program, whether C-124, C-131, C-132 or C-133, that has brought inflation down. I submit to the Hon. Member that the reason the inflation rate has been reduced has a lot to do with the number of people who are out of work, who are carrying the can for inflation by being out of work or on welfare. I submit to the Member that it is the lack of confidence that the business sector has in this Liberal Government that is causing inflation to be reduced, not the Government restraint program and not restrictions on the old age pension and Family Allowances. That has nothing to do with what is happening to inflation. It is the restrictions in the United States, in Great Britain and in Canada on employment that are bringing the inflation rate down, because no one has any confidence in any of those Governments.

● (1200)

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. I realize that in his speech he made reference to the fact that the NDP has strongly supported the setting up of a standing committee on issues relating to women. I know they have done that over a period of time and I commend them for it. My question is this. As we put this proposal forward once again, since we already have standing committees dealing with the problems of farmers, fishermen, miners and bankers, the majority of whom are men, committees which deal with economic issues, should we not also have one on economic and legal issues relating to problems concerning women? Does he agree that the refusal to have such a committee is in itself a form of discrimination on behalf of the Government?

Mr. Miller: I thank the Hon. Member. Obviously the New Democratic Party, in calling for a similar committee in the