

Industrial Status of Women

and abroad. It is a progressive type of legislation which fits well into the changing employment conditions of our time and I solicit the support of every hon. member of this house in regard to this legislation.

The house divided on the motion (Mrs. Fairclough) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Aitken, Miss	Jones
Argue	Knight
Baicer	Knowles
Barnett	Leboe
Bell	Lennard
Blackmore	Low
Blair	Macdonnell
Brown (Brantford)	MacDougall
Bryson	MacInnis
Cameron (Nanaimo)	McCullough (Moose Mountain)
Campbell	McGregor
Cardiff	McLeod
Casselman	Monteith
Castleden	Murphy (Lambton West)
Charlton	Nesbitt
Churchill	Nicholson
Coldwell	Nickle
Crestohl	Noseworthy
Dinsdale	Patterson
Drew	Philpott
Dupuis	Purdy
Ellis	Quelch
Eyre	Regier
Fairclough, Mrs.	Robinson (Bruce)
Fleming	Rowe
Fraser (Peterborough)	Shipley, Mrs.
Fulton	Simmons
Gagnon	Small
Gillis	Stanton
Goode	Starr
Green	Thatcher
Hahn	Tustin
Harkness	White (Hastings-Frontenac)
Hees	White (Middlesex East)
Herridge	White (Waterloo South)
Hodgson	Winch
Hollingworth	Wylie
Howe (Wellington-Huron)	Zaplitny—78.
Johnson (Kindersley)	
Johnston (Bow River)	

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson	Cloutier
Applewhaite	Cote
Ashbourne	Decore
Batten	Demers
Bertrand	Deschatelets
Blanchette	Deslieries
Boisvert	Dumas
Boivin	Enfield
Bonnier	Fairey
Boucher (Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie)	Follwell
Bourget	Fraser (St. John's East)
Bourque	Gardiner
Brisson	Garland
Brown (Essex West)	Garson
Buchanan	Gauthier (Lake St. John)
Cameron (High Park)	Gauthier (Nickel Belt)
Campney	Gauthier (Portneuf)
Cannon	Gingras
Caron	Gingues
Carter	Girard
Cavers	Gour (Russell)
Chevrier	Gourd (Chapleau)

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

Gregg	McMillan
Hanna	McWilliam
Harris	Mang
Harrison	Masse
Hellyer	Meunier
Henderson	Michaud
Henry	Mitchell (Sudbury)
Hosking	Nixon
Houck	Pearson
Howe (Port Arthur)	Pickersgill
Huffman	Pinard
Hunter	Pommer
James	Poulin
Jutras	Pouliot
Kickham	Power (St. John's West)
Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough)	Proudfoot
Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare)	Pruddham
Lafontaine	Ratelle
Langlois (Gaspé)	Roberge
Lapointe	Robertson
Leduc	Robichaud
Lefrançois	Robinson (Simcoe East)
Lesage	Ross
Lusby	St. Laurent
MacEachen	Smith
MacKenzie	Stick
MacNaught	Studer
Macnaughton	Viau
McCann	Weaver
McCubbin	Weir
McCulloch (Pictou)	Weselak
McIlraith	Winters
	Wood—109.

Mr. Speaker: The time allocated for private and public bills having expired, the house at eight o'clock will consider the business which was previously announced. As it is six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

Perhaps I should remind hon. members that during a division they should not leave the house and also that they should not leave the house until the Speaker has left the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think I must depart from my carefully prepared text to express my appreciation for the warmth of the greeting of my friends behind me.

This is my eighth year as Minister of Finance and my tenth budget speech. When I brought down my first budget the world had just emerged from a long and costly war. Looking back at it now I can say that the views I then expressed about our own affairs

The Budget—Mr. Abbott

have been more than justified, but our international hopes have fallen far short of realization. We have had to cope with recurring threats to peace and security, and we have had to incur heavy costs, in co-operation with our friends and allies, in building up the defensive strength of the free world. Solid progress, however, has been made during 1953 and we can face the future with growing confidence.

The growing strength of the North Atlantic alliance has done much to reduce the dangers of armed aggression, but fundamental solutions are still denied us. A just settlement of these questions requires the free world to continue to improve its defensive position in order to negotiate from strength. We cannot yet afford to relax.

In the economic sphere, 1953 has been a much better year. Industrial and agricultural production in almost all countries has continued to expand, and consumption has risen. Supplies of many products entering into international trade are becoming more plentiful, and international markets more competitive. The recovery of Germany and Japan has contributed to this development. It is becoming increasingly evident that after many years of scarcity and inflation we are returning to more normal competitive conditions.

It is encouraging to note the further improvement which has taken place in trade and payments relations between the dollar and the non-dollar countries. The clearest indication of this is the substantial increase in the gold and dollar reserves of overseas countries. During 1953 the sterling area achieved a substantial over-all surplus with the rest of the world. The central reserves held by the United Kingdom rose by \$670 million during 1953 and have continued to rise in the first quarter of 1954. As a result of these favourable developments the position of the sterling area has strengthened considerably. A substantial improvement in the over-all balance of payments and exchange reserves has also been experienced by most European countries.

The progress of the United Kingdom toward freer trade is most significant. Large sectors of trade have been decontrolled; commodity markets have been reopened; and important raw materials and foodstuffs have been placed under open general licence. As a result of these changes, United Kingdom importers are now free to purchase a large part of their basic requirements from the cheapest sources, including the dollar countries. Significant relaxations in trade and

exchange controls have also been introduced by Germany, Belgium, Holland, South Africa and a number of other countries.

While this worth-while progress toward freer trade and payments is a source of satisfaction it still falls far short of what is needed. In many respects the balance of world trade, although very much improved, still lacks defence in depth. It cannot be otherwise as long as major currencies are inconvertible, and there continues to be a widespread use of restrictionism and discrimination.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of recent developments in this field is the change in the attitude of many countries to their external financial problems. There is a growing impatience with the existing system of direct trade controls and discriminations and an increased awareness of the serious economic damage which results from the perpetuation of such policies. To a greater extent than at any time since the end of the war, overseas countries are showing a willingness to envisage basic changes in their trade policy in order to deal with their exchange problems in a fundamental way.

This attitude is most clearly expressed in the "collective approach" proposals formulated on the initiative of the United Kingdom at the commonwealth economic conference in December 1952. These proposals envisage the restoration of an effective system of multilateral trade, and the achievement of currency convertibility over the widest possible area through co-operative international action. In the course of my last budget I stated that Canada had participated fully in the development of the "collective approach" and would be willing to co-operate in any common efforts required to achieve these goals. Today, I am glad to report that real progress has been made over the past year in laying the foundations for the implementation of this constructive program.

In January, as the house knows, I attended the conference of commonwealth finance ministers in Sydney, Australia, which—by the way—I consider to be the most satisfactory conference of this kind since the end of the war. In reviewing developments since the December 1952 meeting, the conference agreed that the substantial improvements which had taken place confirmed the fundamental soundness of the policies and objectives which they had set for themselves. Without reservation all commonwealth countries joined in a clear reaffirmation of the "collective approach" proposals for currency convertibility and freer trade.

