

The Address—Mr. Riis

issue, it has been the subject of fairly lively public debate. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) has said publicly that he is reviewing this issue. I know for a fact that he is undertaking such a review. He has said that he will be looking at some of the questions concerning the area of definitions.

I would also like to tell the Hon. Member that when one enters into this type of issue, no matter where the line is drawn someone will say that we have gone too far and someone else will say that we have not gone far enough. I caution the Hon. Member by saying to him that when the Minister of Justice comes back, after having reviewed the issue, this debate will go on no matter where that line is drawn. I think that the point which is important to the women of Canada is that we are committed to doing something about violent and degrading pornography.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. McDougall: With respect to the Hon. Member's second issue, once again, it is an important one for Canadian women. As the Hon. Member knows, the issue is presently before the courts. It is a matter which I will be watching with great interest, as I know he will be, and all Members of the House will be. However, until it is dealt with I would prefer not to comment on the issue.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister how she will move in her own caucus to assure the promotion of women when, in the Public Service, we have seen a nomination which is a very politicizing one for women since Maureen O'Neil left this particular sector. CBC had two nominations open and the Government named two men to the positions. If we want to move women into these sectors based on credibility and confidence, and when sex stereotyping in the media is such a serious issue, then the CBC board could do with some women on it.

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Hon. Member is not suggesting that all those Liberals who were appointed for years and years were incompetent.

Mr. Forrestall: You cannot have it both ways.

Mrs. McDougall: The new co-ordinator of the Status of Women is one of the most highly regarded activists in the women's movement in this country. I am proud that Kay Stanley is reporting to me. With respect to appointments in the Public Service, I can read to the Hon. Member the list of deputy ministers, all of whom are highly qualified. I refer to Margaret Catley-Carlson, Treasury Board; Huguette Labelle at the Public Service Commission; Maureen Law at National Health and Welfare; Jennifer McQueen at the Department of Labour; Geneviève Sainte-Marie at Environment Canada; and Georgina Wyman at the Department of Supply and Services. I think this is a record of which we can be very proud. I think we can be equally proud of the other appointments of women we have made. I look at the boards and commissions of the

Government and the women who have been appointed to them. First of all, the percentage has increased—

• (1630)

Mrs. Finestone: Just because they drive cars on an Air Canada board?

Mrs. McDougall: The Director of Air Canada was the mayor of a major Canadian municipality and a highly qualified woman. The percentage of women appointed through Governor in Council appointments has increased from under 18 per cent under the previous Government to 25 per cent today. I am sure the Hon. Member would agree that we are, therefore, doing a good job at some of these appointments.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I rise today in my seat in the House of Commons with a very, very heavy heart. I, like many, many Canadians, feel betrayed. I am saddened by the actions of a Government which has, in a sense, turned its back on the people of Canada.

Over the summer while Members of Parliament were in their own home constituencies, we were telling our constituents that we were awaiting a new Throne Speech from the Government. As a matter of fact, the Government asked us to take an extra month to enable it to prepare a thoughtful Throne Speech that would indicate a new direction for Canada. The people of Canada were anxiously awaiting this Throne Speech because they really believed and hoped that the Government would show a new direction for the country to take and would be taking Canada on a new course. They hoped the Government would be establishing a new and clear direction for our future.

The people of Canada were hoping that there would for the first time be a new vision of what one of the richest countries on the face of the earth could accomplish in the next weeks, months and years ahead. However, when the Governor General read the Speech from the Throne, that was not there. It really only provided for the *status quo* continuing in the future. There was no direction, no clear idea of where the country was going.

As a Canadian, and particularly as a western Canadian from the interior of British Columbia, I was looking to see if there was something in the Throne Speech that would indicate a commitment to providing assistance to the hard-pressed mining and exploration industries. There was nothing like that there. I was looking for some indication that the Government had intended to take seriously the plight facing the forest industry of Canada. There was nothing in the Throne Speech for the forest industry. There was nothing in it to assist the tourist sector and the farmers and hard-pressed cattle ranchers of western Canada. There was nothing in it of particular interest to the small business sector or to small manufacturers, particularly those in the regions struggling during these very difficult economic times.