

S.O. 21

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

CONSEQUENCES OF STEREOTYPING

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, the level of poverty among Canadian women is unacceptable and the rate is steadily increasing. Of the 500,000 elderly poor in Canada, fully 350,000 of them are female. Inflation in recent years has eroded their incomes and impoverished their retirement. Working women earn less than 50 per cent of the wages of working males.

The problem, in part, is culturally derived from stereotyping. A recent Canadian study demonstrates that school age females still harbour many myths about working women. An astounding 80 per cent of school age females expressed the belief that a university degree would decrease their chances of marriage. More than half expressed the belief that children of working mothers became juvenile delinquents.

I therefore suggest that government programs of questionable value or marginal success be eliminated, or have their budgets reduced, so as to allow the available means for a national children's TV program to be broadcast in all regions, with an inter-mix of both official languages, with the objective of stimulating curiosity and reason, enhancing tolerance, and broadening the sex roles for both young females and males, putting language training and role shaping in concert with the most compatible age for such learning.

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PARLIAMENT

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF THE THIRTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament will end in a few days. Historians will judge it as perhaps the most profound since Confederation. Indeed, the session has evolved a new federation as the nation has become fully sovereign. Whosoever writes the history of this session carries on an enormous responsibility. John Ruskin wrote:

The only history worth reading is . . . the history of what was done and seen, heard out of the mouths of the men who did and saw.

Every Member of this House, therefore, carries the burden of having to record that history as they "did and saw". I challenge the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the former Prime Minister (Mr. Clark), the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent), and in fact, every Member of this Thirty-second Parliament, to record in writing their emotions and experiences of this session. That challenge goes to you too, Madam Speaker. For months now, I have been writing mine in a document called "Parliament and Patriation—The Triumph of Unilateralism". It is a challenging undertaking. This session of Parliament has been truly exciting and historic.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONTAMINATED WATER SYSTEMS IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, tabled June 1, 1982, drew the attention of the House to serious water and sewage problems in Indian communities across Canada. The Committee recommended that a special capital fund be created to correct these problems. A year and a half have gone by and very little has happened. Indian people continue to suffer poor health because of impure water.

The Kingsclear band in New Brunswick is a case in point. For the last nine days the primary school has been closed because of a contaminated water system. The iron count is nearly three times the permissible level. The water runs black, and carries an offensive odour. Indian Affairs advised the band to flush the water system three or four times a month. Flushing means that for a few days the water runs brown instead of black. Several children have developed a rash, and the community hesitates to use the water for washing. Many families now carry their water from two nearby springs.

These primitive and subnormal conditions should not exist in Canada in 1983. The Government must accept its responsibility and make funds available now so that Kingsclear and other Indian communities can have decent water.

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THE PRESS

LACK OF PRESS COUNCILS IN MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN

Hon. Jim Fleming (York West): Madam Speaker, I seek the floor today to address the issue of press councils, an important issue because the print media in most Canadian cities have no direct daily print competition.

When the Kent Report was released, only three Provinces had press councils. In Ontario, less than half of the daily newspapers were members. Since the Government's proposal for a national advisory council on newspapers was made, there has been progress. In 1982 the Ontario Press Council had 17 members; today there are 34 dailies belonging to it. Equally encouraging is the establishment of press councils in British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces.

The only part of Canada where voluntary press councils are still not available is Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I use this occasion to urge the daily press in those two Provinces to act. Without such a mechanism, individual Canadians must deal with their daily newspaper at the benevolence of the publisher or editor or, in the extreme, through a costly trip to court. Such courses of action are not satisfactory when the print media have such a considerable impact on the public, and when so much of the media is in the hands of so few owners.

I reassert that the proposed national advisory council is completely independent of government and remains a potential means of redress for Canadians where advisory councils do not