

On April 17 the Section of the Charter of Rights which aims to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or disability came into effect. Yet the coming into effect of legislation does not guarantee that the spirit of Section 15 of the Charter of Rights, as well as the letter of the law, will become a reality.

The only sure way to combat discrimination, misunderstanding, and unfair treatment of any person, is through public education and discretion in the courts. It is stereotyping and insensitivity toward individuals in general which contribute to inequality.

● (1410)

Presently a subcommittee of the House is examining the many facets of equality rights. It is the work of this committee, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Department within the Secretary of State, and such organizations as the National Action Committee that continually play a role in ensuring that equality for women is achieved.

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[Translation]

WOMEN

DEMANDS MADE BY WOMEN'S GROUPS

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): As government members, we appreciate very much the work done and action taken by women throughout Canada, and I take this opportunity to congratulate all the Canadian women who took part in the economic summit which was held last weekend in Ottawa, especially as the Decade for Women is coming to an end.

Moreover, as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Status of Women, the mandate of which is to ensure that the recommendations of each and every women's group reach the departments concerned, I can assure the House that my colleagues and I give very serious consideration to the recommendations and requests which we receive and that we have every intention to give Canadian women the opportunities they deserve within our society. Unfortunately, because of the very serious financial situation we have inherited from the previous government, we are unable for the time being to meet all the requests we are receiving, for we must be fair to all Canadians; you can rest assured, however, that we are striving to encourage the promotion of women in the various departments and in the areas under their jurisdiction.

During its mandate, I am sure that this government will make every effort to defend the interests of all Canadian women.

[English]

S.O. 21

CHILDREN

RETURN SOUGHT OF CHILD TAKEN TO TUNISIA

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, on August 13, 1982, a five-year old girl, Tina Lynn Mallette, was abducted from the care of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton. Tina was living temporarily with her foster-mother while her natural mother was ill.

In an attempt to find the abductor, it was discovered much later, after a number of months, that the child was living in Tunisia, and she is still there today. Several attempts have been made by the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Justice to return Tina Lynn Mallette to Canada.

Today, in the House of Commons, I will be presenting a petition signed by 6,795 Canadians who are joining me in asking the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to summon the Tunisian Ambassador immediately to a meeting which will, hopefully result in the return to Canada of Tina Lynn Mallette.

Yesterday was Mother's Day. One mother has not seen her child for three years because of the intransigence of the Tunisian authorities.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

PERMANENT RETURN TO GREECE ADVOCATED

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact that the Olympic spirit and the Olympic Games have suffered severe set-backs by efforts either to commercialize the games or to use them for international political confrontations. These moves have degraded the value of the Olympic Games and have distorted their message, which is the consolidation of friendship among peoples, and a positive contribution to a life more humane, more creative, and more peaceful.

The ideals of sports must be reborn, and we must find their true meaning. The people of Greece, rich in traditions and historic contributions, with a unique athletic past, daily confirm their dedication to such ideals.

I believe the Olympic Games could recover their lost meaning. This could be accomplished by the permanent return of the Olympic Games to Greece, their place of origin and birth, so that they can find their true concept again. The Government of Greece is already on record as agreeing to having the Olympic Games on a permanent basis in Greece. Therefore I call upon the Government to give whatever support is needed to bring this about, and to urge all other Governments in the world to do the same.