

keep our eyes on the government daily in order to see whether this is a genuine move. I will close by reading a portion of a speech by Miss Sylva M. Gelber on November 10, 1971, to the Canadian Federation of University Women. After having related in some detail the summary of progress that had been made in terms of women, women's rights and legislation affecting them, she closed her speech with this extremely significant paragraph:

From this short summary of the progress made in the enactment of legislation relating to working women, it will be seen that, at long last, the laws required to achieve the goal of equal and fair opportunity for women, are beginning to appear across the land. But the law is merely a tool; and a tool is of little value if it is not used. And even if the tool is used, it is only of value when it is properly used.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to be able to respond on behalf of our party to the statement just made by the minister in charge of raising the status of women. I am glad the article in *Chatelaine* with the questionnaire appeared at this time. I cannot help feeling that it gave a little extra impetus to the production of this statement.

When the report of the royal commission was tabled it provided Canadian women at once with a bible of their rights and a blueprint as to some of the ways in which action must be taken for them to reach the promised land of equality. What does this statement disclose? It discloses that there have been several measures of real substance achieved. I have made reference to these before. The two most important have been under the aegis of the minister now in charge. They are maternity leave under the Canada Labour (Standards) Code and maternity benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act. More recently there have been amendments to the Criminal Code with regard to women serving as jurors, the abolition of the vagrancy section and one or two other points. Within the Department of National Health and Welfare, there has been the establishment of grants for family planning across this country.

Some pious hopes have been expressed about how the government intends to encourage the appointment of more women to senior posts in the public service. However, apart from token positions where women have been so outstanding that they could not be ignored, these hopes have not been anything more than expressed. One of my colleagues has just made the rather regrettable suggestion that even at this stage there are many members—"MCPs", they might be called—not paying the attention they might at this time. On behalf of the women of Canada, I ask them to listen.

Some hon. Members: Explain "MCPs".

Mrs. MacInnis: I will not compete with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in that department. As far as the major recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women are concerned, there has been no action or only microscopic action taken to this point. The major recommendation was for child care centres across the country. While this is obviously a shared responsibility with the provinces and municipalities, the federal government has a tremendous responsibility to fulfil.

Status of Women

[*Translation*]

Hon. members on my left could perhaps calm down a little so that I may be heard.

[*English*]

The only mention of this matter in the statement today is that under the LIP program the federal government has helped to establish 90 day-care centres across the country. I would point out, however, that the LIP program is due to end on the 31st of the present month, and you know, Mr. Speaker, what will happen to most of these centres when the grants end. My other comment is that the Royal Commission on the Status of Women said that there is need for 130,000 day-care places immediately. So this is one big piece of unfinished business.

Reference was made to child care allowances. The recent legislation provided for only about half the amount of income tax deductions which is essential if children are to be looked after, and even this minimal concession is hedged about with demands for receipts, the keeping of employer records, and so on. There are many whose wages are not high enough to enable them to qualify for this tax deduction. The report of the royal commission calls for a guaranteed annual income for "single support" parents as the beginning of a guaranteed income across this country for all Canadians.

In regard to the Adult Occupational Training Act, I am glad to learn that women are to be allowed to qualify. The minister told us that women would be eligible provided they had worked for one year at any time in their lives. I should like to know how many women have not worked for one year at any time in their lives.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. MacInnis: In other words, will the new act apply to housewives or not? Are they considered to have worked one year in their lives? The minister nods. That is good. I hope *Hansard* will report the nod.

Work on education in the field of planned parenthood has been started and there are already 66 family planning centres across Canada. I would point out, though, that according to experts in the field we need 700 of these centres to give information and advice on family planning. There is also a need for information on abortion as a second line of defence against unwanted pregnancy, as the hon. member who preceded me has indicated.

As for the Family Income Security Plan, we in this party have pointed out that it will take from one-third of our mothers even the little cheque they now receive. They will have to give it to those who are living in poverty because the government has not the courage to institute a fair tax system so as to obtain the necessary revenue from other sources.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. MacInnis: Women are sending me letters which prove they are well aware that the fair taxation potential exists. I am watching the clock, Mr. Speaker. The first speaker on this subject took six minutes, the next took seven, and I have spoken for just six minutes so far.