

women under-represented, they are often misrepresented on television, performing a limited number of stereotyped roles.

My question is for the Minister of Communications. Will the Minister introduce broadcasting legislation to increase the number of women at the production level as well as on the screens of the Canadian broadcasting system, so that there will be a fairer portrayal on Canadian airwaves?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member fully knows, we are in the midst of reviewing the Broadcasting Act and preparing for the introduction of new legislation. She is one of the hard-working members of the committee. I take her representations at this time as something to be considered as we come forward with a new Broadcasting Act.

I also want to mention that the CRTC has recently put forward guidelines for sex role stereotyping which should also be considered in the revision of the Broadcasting Act.

APPLICATION OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT—ROLE OF CRTC

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Notwithstanding the important step forward in terms of sex role stereotyping, I would like a stronger statement of commitment, if possible.

Since the current Employment Equity Act lacks an effective enforcement mechanism, will the Minister ensure that employment equity obligations apply to all broadcasting licences regardless of size and that the CRTC is mandated to supervise and enforce employment equity provisions as a condition of licence?

● (1430)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to see that in a recent ruling of the CRTC it did make compliance with the guidelines on sex role stereotyping one of the conditions of licence when the application comes forward for renewal.

I think there are advances in this field, and I am very pleased with the way in which the broadcasting community is addressing itself to the provisions of the present Employment Equity legislation in order to ensure greater equality in our broadcasting industry for women and for minority groups.

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CHILD CARE

DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): My question is for the Minister for National Health and Welfare. It has to do

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with child care concerns raised by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. The Minister knows that study after study has shown that non-profit child care is consistently of higher quality than commercial child care.

Will the Minister put aside his own market-place ideology and assure the women of Canada that their children will not be used for profit and that new public funds for child care will go to develop non-profit child care services?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member puts forward an argument which she knows does not do any justice to families who decide what type of child care they want, whether it is non-profit, commercial, or informal child care. I am not going to be a Minister who will stand in this House and demand that parents do this or that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp (Provencher): What I promise the Hon. Member and the House is that when the Government puts forward its proposal there will be a wide range of choices, which I think is an approach more in keeping with what Canadian parents want.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the appropriate use of tax dollars for child care. Appropriate use is not for profit-making child care.

USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Another related overriding concern of women is the quality of child care, Mr. Speaker. They are very concerned that the Minister may extend or agree to extend Canada Assistance Plan funding. Will the Minister guarantee that the Canada Assistance Plan funding, which is a welfare program—we want child care to be for everybody—will not be extended to fund profit-making child care either now or in the future?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, again the Hon. Member forgets, for example, that the present Ontario Government recognizes that over 50 per cent of its spaces are in the very types of configuration which she condemns; in Alberta around 70 per cent are and, in Atlantic Canada, which does not have the kind of financial resources that some of the other provinces have, the percentage is also very high. Simply to condemn, then to lose those spaces and to say we have done more for child care is to argue the preposterous. What I am saying to the Hon. Member is what I said in my first answer, that there will be a choice, and she will have to wait for that day.