Mr. STANBURY: Mr. Chairman, may I say that I subscribe very heartily to the suggestion. Without injecting any partisan note here I think we can all appreciate the fact that the government has taken the initiative finally to refer the subject matter of these bills to this committee so that we can do an intensive job of studying the whole field of birth control and family planning, and make a constructive contribution.

Mr. GOWAN: Might I make a correction: the witness said that the government referred the matter to committee. Was it not Parliament that referred the matter to committee?

Mr. STANBURY: I said the government took the initiative in having the matter referred. The Solicitor General took the initiative.

The CHAIRMAN: The Solicitor General moved the motion in the House of Commons. The House concurred in it and sent it to committee.

Mr. CHATTERTON: You have got to give them some credit.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no other questions of the witnesses, I would like to tell the committee that I have approached other interested bodies in this matter. They have concurred in their wish to appear before the committee, but none of them has as yet committed themselves to a date. They want time to think this over and prepare a brief. Therefore, I suggest we adjourn to the call of the Chair. This may sound like a rather weird idea, but I hope not.

Mrs. MACKINNIS: The one minister of a provincial government department of health and welfare, who has shown any interest in this subject publicly is Mr. René Lévesque. I wonder if we could not have him appear before the committee. I do not see why we should not.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is the wish of the committee, the committee can invite any witness to appear.

Mrs. MACKINNIS: After all, he is minister of health and welfare of a provincial government, presumably this matter in its control phases at least is going to have something to do with co-operation with the provincial governments, and it seems to me when there is a provincial minister who has shown interest in this matter and recently advocated it before this committee, I would be in favour of having him appear.

The CHAIRMAN: I would point out that Mr. Lévesque is not minister of health. I believe his department is family and social welfare.

Mrs. MACKINNIS: Welfare, then. Thank you. In view of Mr. Stanbury's statement about the authorities having decided to quite an extent at least some welfare matters, they established a clinic in York-Scarborough and I know, of course, in my own city of Vancouver, that the welfare authorities as the Toronto ones earlier decided that this matter of giving birth control information should be handled by the welfare people. I think there is hope. Perhaps I am wrong. I did feel there was hope since there is one minister having to do with welfare who had some interest in this, and I thought it might be a good liaison.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Good suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you allow the steering committee to take this under consideration?

Mrs. MACKINNIS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee is adjourned.