

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would like to tell the hon. member that a few months ago we commissioned a major study on the question of domestic workers by Miss Mary Eberts, a well-known lawyer in this area and Toronto. That report is now complete and it is my intention to release it in a matter of two or three weeks, after I have had a chance to review it.

My colleague, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism, has organized a conference dealing with the problems of immigrant women, and we will be discussing that issue and those problems during that conference. We will have an opportunity to present the paper and at that time we will be able to look at the very serious problems affecting domestic workers in this country.

## REFUND OF CANADA PENSION PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, the minister will be aware that many of these domestics have unemployment insurance and Canada Pension Plan premiums deducted from their wages, that very few of them can collect unemployment insurance, and that when they leave the country very few know that they are entitled to a refund of their CPP contributions. Is that report going to deal with that question and will the minister make clear to these people when they come to this country what their rights are with regard to unemployment insurance benefits and the Canada Pension Plan?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would be glad to tell the hon. member that that specific issue is dealt with in the paper. There are a number of solutions proposed in the report, and once we have had an opportunity to make it public and get some response, then we will take corrective action.

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## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## PROVISION OF INCENTIVES

**Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology.

In view of the fact the Japanese have become the world leaders in trademark applications, with the latest figures for 1977 indicating that Japanese applications account for about 25 per cent of the world total, will the Minister of Science and Technology create the same climate of incentive in Canada for research and development to compete with Japan and the world in trademark applications, in the hope of increasing our competitive position in world trade?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. gentleman I hope is aware, we have

recently indicated to the public and Parliament the kind of five-year track of spending we believe is required to increase our research capacity in the science and technology fields.

We also have currently under study a variety of other approaches, tax measures and other means of trying to encourage the kind of research and development we wish to see take place in the private sector, and I will certainly be interested in the ideas which he has put forward stemming from other countries which we might usefully adapt to our own situation.

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## STATUS OF WOMEN

## APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo):** Madam Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for the status of women and relates to the arm's length approach the government always takes.

The minister announced on Friday the appointment of six members to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, to fill vacancies which came about in January when several members resigned to protest his political interference. He also elevated to president a loyal supporter in Doris Anderson's place. After all the public discussion on the appointment process, why did the minister not heed the concerns of women's groups and consult more widely, or does he find it too tiresome to do this?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, we have obviously heeded the concerns because we appointed extremely well qualified people, and if the hon. member would care to look at the qualifications of those who were appointed he will find that not only do they represent a good cross-section of points of view of women in this country—

**Mr. Clark:** Of the Liberal Party.

**Mr. Axworthy:** But also represent very well the strong feminist activities in the regions from which they come.

**Mr. McLean:** Madam Speaker, the question did not relate to the qualifications but to the process, and neither the national action committee nor provincial advisory councils were consulted.

Having received many representations calling for an independent, external review of the advisory council to restore its sagging credibility, news reports now suggest that the cabinet has decided there be no immediate review of the council because it might be politically embarrassing. Will the minister tell the House when the government will end this elitist, patronage-oriented process? Will there be a truly independent review of the council?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Madam Speaker, we might come to an end of some things as soon as the hon. members opposite end the kind of inflammatory language they use with respect to that