

of systemic discrimination. There is no glass ceiling for men.

When is the Prime Minister—and I apologize for being negative—going to act meaningfully to end discrimination for women in his Public Service here in this country and fulfil his commitment?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend for a very important question. I know that, as someone very committed to the cause of the promotion of women, she will be very interested to know that the day I was sworn in as Prime Minister, there were three women Deputy Ministers in Canada; there are today 21. There were two women serving as ambassadors; there are now 16. There were 37 women in the federal judiciary; there are now 79. The number of women serving on agencies, boards and commissions—the highest Order in Council appointments of the Government of Canada—has, in the space of six years, after 16 years of Liberal government, been increased by 107 per cent.

• (1450)

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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CULTURE

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, in the Canada-U.S.-Mexico trade talks, Canadian culture will again be under attack.

American negotiator, Carla Hills, assured U.S. congressmen that they will get Canadian cultural industries this time, that giving a cultural exemption to Canada in the last round was a big mistake.

Will the Minister of International Trade assure Canadians that in any future trade talks that protection for Canadian cultural industries will be strengthened, and will not be weakened as suggested by the U.S. negotiator, Carla Hills?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think the members of the House already know from the provisions of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement that this government is well capable of preserving the strength of Canadian culture and Canadian cultural agencies.

Mrs. Hills is simply expressing on behalf of the U.S. government its chagrin at having failed in the U.S.-Can-

ada free trade negotiations in having got anywhere with reference to the Canadian cultural industry.

I can assure the hon. member that the Mexicans have exhibited no desire to make an assault upon Canadian culture, and as long as I am the trade minister she can depend upon it. Canadian culture is safe.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): I know that beer is safer than Canadian culture and I know that we got strangled with clause 2005, so do not tell me what the condition of Canadian culture is, based on what the minister has to say. With the so-called cultural protections that this government has given us, and the minister knows this, our creators, our film makers, our magazines and newspapers and our book publishers are all at risk.

So my question to the Prime Minister, seeing as how he will not let his minister of culture do it—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would put her question.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, I would kindly ask the Prime Minister to give serious consideration to reinstating a proper film distribution policy, to reinstate the postal subsidies for our magazines and our books, and to enforce Canadian control of the minister's famous Baie Comeau policy. Or, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if he needs Carla Hills' permission.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member the assurance that the government's responsibility for cultural industries in general and this one in particular is being taken very seriously, that policies have been initiated, and that compared with the situation under the previous Liberal government, Canada's cultural industries are now in far better shape.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[English]

ARMS EXPORTS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice.

Will the minister confirm that a consortium of companies, including General Motors of Canada and Diemaco, has recently signed a contract to export light armoured vehicles. The House saw those types of vehicles in the Oka crisis. They have machine guns on top