

experience as a government and to benefit from other countries' initiatives, thereby confirming our resolution and determination. I think, therefore, that the government will play a very active role in Nairobi and will contribute its much sought-after expertise in the area of women promotion.

[English]

Mrs. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment for the Parliamentary Secretary. I know that family violence is of great concern to all Canadians. Indeed, we are becoming extremely aware of the real difficulties being faced by battered wives. A number of women in my constituency have approached me to discuss this problem. They are looking for advice. These women go through very elaborate means to talk with me because they are afraid that their spouses might find out. A reality in the City of Brockville recently has been a home for battered women. I have been very supportive in working with them and in making it a reality. Could the Parliamentary Secretary elaborate on what programs and assistance are available to combat this problem?

● (1200)

[Translation]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague the Hon. Member for Leeds-Grenville (Mrs. Cossitt) for her question. As a matter of fact, I can advise her that the Minister responsible for the status of women will meet today a number of groups concerning this. I think that it is a major concern of any government. I might add something along the line of what she said to demonstrate to what extent we should be concerned about this problem. It seems that one out of every ten women is a battered wife, and an objective of the program which the Secretary of State has implemented is to help these groups of women get together and meet these problems head on.

Also, there is a federal-provincial-territorial meeting of the ministers responsible for the status of women which will take place in Winnipeg June 5-7 and one of the items on the agenda is precisely the one she has referred to. Also, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is presently involved in consultations concerning this problem. As you can see, this Government is well aware of and very concerned about family violence and will definitely take measures in order to try and help these people.

Mrs. Killens: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State (Mrs. Landry) and deals with the integration of Indian women in reserves.

Is the Hon. Member aware that her colleagues in committee are systematically rejecting amendments to grant a permanent status to the children of Indian women? Is the Hon. Member ready to exert pressures on her colleagues to avoid such discrimination?

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her question. I know that the Bill is now before the committee

Supply

and this Government is trying to correct through that Bill a glaring injustice to Indian women. At present, I know that there are still some recommendations before the committee. I do not know what the outcome of the debate will be but I understand the concern of Indian women. I think that the committee involved will make the necessary recommendations and the House will decide what amendment should be made if necessary.

[English]

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in the speech made by the Parliamentary Secretary and I was particularly interested in the Government's response to the Abella report. I wonder if the Hon. Member could tell the House if the Government has yet decided what it is going to do about companies or corporations that do not draw up a plan of affirmative action. How is the Government going to oblige these companies to draw up a plan of affirmative action? Second, if companies do have affirmative action plans regarding the hiring and promotion of women, has the Government yet decided what it will do regarding the enforcing of those plans?

[Translation]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Government position with respect to the implementation of the Abella report was that our views had been stated and that we should trust the various departments and organizations which will eventually submit their projects. A bill could also be introduced to carry out other—

I do not see why we should not trust the departments and Crown corporations. They know how important it is to be fair as far as jobs for women are concerned. It will always be possible later, as a responsible Government, to make some changes to improve conditions if we detect some gaps. I think that our Government has taken a responsible position as far as equality in employment is concerned.

[English]

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, I admire the Parliamentary Secretary's faith. For quite a long time, we in the House have been expecting certain actions to be taken by the Public Service and Crown corporations on affirmative action. Indeed, in the case of many Crown corporations, exactly the opposite has happened.

Could the Hon. Member also address the question of the contractors in the private sector that are doing business with the Government? For the contractors that are doing more than \$200,000 per year worth of business with the Government and do have affirmative action plans, has the Government decided yet how it will enforce those plans of action and make sure that the plans are in fact carried out and not just discussed?

[Translation]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, when my colleague refers to positions seldom enforced in the past, I think this new Government is quite responsible and—