

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock?

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely, private bills, notices of motions, public bills.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett)—Northern Affairs—Reference of land use regulations to standing committee; the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Alleged infiltration of FLQ cells; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Post Office—Christmas mail delivery.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### REQUEST FOR COPY OF STUDY OF UNDERPRIVILEGED URBAN SECTIONS OF QUEBEC

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway)** moved:

That an order of the House do issue for a copy of the study undertaken by Le Centre de Planification Familiale, Montréal, in the fiscal year 1969-70 funded by the Department of National Health and Welfare on "Projet de recherche auprès du milieu défavorisé urbain Québécois."

She said: Mr. Speaker, it was not in a frivolous way that I asked for the production of this study. For a long time I have been pressing for a much broader program of birth control and for the distribution of information regarding contraceptives, much broader than we have had up to the present time, and I may say much broader than we are likely to get for some little time yet. I am convinced that there is a need for a broad program of public education, a program that would make contraceptives freely available, and a program which would use clinics and mobile clinics travelling from house to house. Such a program is one of the great needs in this country at the present time.

• (5:00 p.m.)

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, when I saw that a study had been carried out by the Department of National Health and Welfare concerning the underprivileged urban sections of Quebec I felt it would add a great deal of information with respect to the need for such a pro-

### Family Planning Centres

gram. Unfortunately, when I am speaking today I shall have to draw my material from my own end of the country, simply because the department is following government policy by refusing to make available the information which we need.

We need information from all sections of the country in order to know exactly what we are dealing with, in order to know the different requirements of different areas. It is very tantalizing and frustrating to know that this information exists in government offices and bureaus, and that we cannot get it. It is particularly tantalizing and frustrating when we know it is not the property of the government, when we know that these reports and documents were paid for by the taxpayers of the country. Surely, the taxpayers have a right to have access to this information, particularly at a time when on every hand we find members of the government, commission reports and other documents, stating that we should have the fullest possible information made available to the public on all matters affecting government.

One point I would like to make at the outset about birth control is that as you go down the income scale the need for such a program increases. That is exactly why I wanted to get this report which deals with the least privileged sections of urban Quebec, because in my opinion conditions in urban Quebec should not greatly differ from urban Ontario and urban British Columbia, meaning especially Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that last spring a brief was presented to the Senate Committee on Poverty by the Family Planning Federation of Canada, which is the English speaking counterpart of Le Centre de Planification Familiale, in Quebec. It pointed out the close and tragic connection between poverty and large families. As an example, it cited a study of Vancouver multi-problem poor families, where one-third of them had one child or more over 15 years of age living apart from the family for reasons of adoption, placement, emotional treatment or delinquency. In other words, in those large multi-problem, poor families, the large family was also the one that incurred breakup and led to the community being saddled with extra expenses. Of course, the family itself was broken and scattered. The Planning Federation commented:

We know that the practice of family planning declines rapidly from the top to the bottom of Canada's socio-economic ladder. The poor are still having the babies, many of them unwanted babies.

In my opinion, while some people may consider abortion a crime, the real crime is the birth of unwanted children, children who from the very moment of their birth are unwanted and condemned to wander in the world alone, uncared for and completely derelict from the beginning. What we need is more democracy in such matters; that is, the right for people on low incomes to have the knowledge and the means to plan and limit their families in the same way as those on higher incomes. Ottawa must take its part in providing funds for the establishment and maintenance of family planning clinics where they are needed across Canada.