

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 6, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

#### PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

Fifth and sixth reports of Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization—Mr. Blair.

[Translation]

#### FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

First and second reports of Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry—Mr. Guay (Lévis).

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

#### TABLING OF PAGES ONE AND TWO OF OCTOBER ISSUE OF "FOREIGN TRADE"

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), and as indicated in the reply given to question No. 838 on April 28, 1971, I now wish to table copies, in French and English, of pages 1 and 2 which were omitted in the October issue of the *Foreign Trade* magazine published by my department. That correction does not apply to the magazine *Commerce extérieur*.

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[English]

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House yesterday in reply to a question by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis), I wish to outline very briefly the achievements of the family planning program within my department.

For the past several months, health and welfare officials of my department have been engaged in launching a Canada-wide family planning program in co-operation with the provinces and with professional and voluntary organizations. Our aim has been to include both health and welfare interests and responsibilities, ensuring co-ordination and making full use of the resources and capacities available. The department is also working with the Medical Research Council and with the International Development Research Centre in this program.

I expect that during the coming months we shall be able, through our existing and developing programs, to enhance our support of the growing efforts of the provinces and of voluntary groups and agencies. In this regard, as the latest development I am happy to say that I have recently approved a direct contribution of \$100,000 to the Family Planning Federation of Canada to assist that organization to extend its activities throughout Canada.

• (2:10 p.m.)

In order to strengthen our combined efforts to promote family planning, we intend to hold a family planning conference in 1972, with participation of provincial health and welfare authorities, professional associations, citizen groups and other organizations. Such a conference will provide an opportunity to assess progress and to develop measures to improve and extend family planning services throughout Canada.

I realize that the time of the House is limited and therefore I will conclude my remarks. However, because of the interest of the House in this subject, in accordance with Standing Order 41 (2) I wish to table in both official languages a document which outlines in more detail the achievements of the family planning program of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for supplying copies of his document on family planning in sufficient time for us to review its contents.

First I wish to say I am pleased that the government is making a reasonable start on introducing a program on family planning, but it is only a beginning and an elaboration of an information program which has been needed by thousands of families for many years. I would like to have seen more planning in the direction of needy families in line with the family income security plan.

The document indicates co-ordination with the provinces and other organizations but does not suggest, as it should, financial assistance for more family planning clinics in hospitals. This should be a very basic consideration. Only 23 of 948 Canadian subsidized hospitals have family planning centres. This brings up the fundamental question of the difficulty in providing counselling to the poor and poorly educated who live in areas that are far distant and isolated from this type of service. In this connection we hope that in order to overcome this difficulty a system of mobile clinics will be established to serve these remote areas in order to help those who need advice most. The dissemination of birth control information is important and in carrying out the task attention should be paid to those who, even at this sophisticated stage of our communications media, are far removed