

The Address

world, people that we are proud of. This cannot go on as they are being choked by under-funding.

I was most disturbed by one line in the Speech from the Throne, and I refer to the translation: "and my government will appoint a blue ribbon panel of concerned Canadian men and women to inquire into the serious problem of violence against women in our society".

Since November when we struck the subcommittee on the status of women of the health and welfare committee, I have sat in that committee and listened to eloquent and moving testimony from witnesses from all across Canada about the increasing and horrifying state of violence against women in our civilized country, in our country where we are all talking about listening to each other and being responsive to each other's needs.

I believe that among the members of this House there is not a person who does not finally grasp the significance and the widespread existence of this problem. In my small province of Nova Scotia, and I have said this before, there have been six spousal murders of women in the past year. Those statistics alone are frightening.

We know the statistics in the city of Montreal in the year of the dreadful, horrible massacre of the young

women engineering students, when 118 other women murdered. Those murders were almost unnoticed. We know that this goes on. We know that it occurs in too many households.

Women's groups, individual women, my party, and others have been calling for a royal commission on violence against women. We call for that royal commission because we know it is absolutely necessary to have both the scholarly evidence that a royal commission can call upon and the tremendous light of publicity that a royal commission will engender.

I fear from this one line in the Speech from the Throne that this is not what we are going to get. What I see here is something called a blue ribbon panel of concerned Canadian men and women. We do not need a blue ribbon panel. We need a panel that is rooted in experience and we need a royal commission.

Are you cutting me off, Mr. Speaker?

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being 6 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.