

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank my hon. friend for bringing to our attention such an important matter, which is interesting not only from the legal point of view, but also because of the human factor.

I note that my colleague has seen the conclusions of the Law Reform Commission working paper. I think we agree that the matter should be studied immediately, promptly and efficiently.

[*English*]

The study paper on family courts issued by the Law Reform Commission of Canada a short time ago, in which it was proposed that family courts be given more effective means to enforce maintenance orders against elusive spouses, is merely a study paper and these proposals are not at this stage recommendations of the Law Reform Commission. The Law Reform Commission will be making recommendations on the subject of family courts in due course. This report may or may not endorse the proposal advanced in the study paper.

Adjournment Debate

If the proposal is recommended by the Law Reform Commission, it will be discussed with the appropriate provincial authorities since the matter of enforcing maintenance orders is one which lies within provincial jurisdiction. The proposal advanced in the study paper, if endorsed by the Law Reform Commission, is one which might profitably be explored through the medium of the Conference of Uniformity Commissioners on Legislation in Canada which meets annually to examine ways and means of achieving uniformity in laws throughout the various jurisdictions.

[*Translation*]

I can assure my hon. friend that this matter interests me personally, as well as the department which I am representing tonight because I admit that it is time to truly deal with these problems unrestricted by jurisdictions which are necessary, but must not have priority over the population and the serious and important problems that my hon. friend has described and that I promise to refer to the minister. I also promise to give them particular attention myself.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.