

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 8, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO IMPROVE STATUS—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Considering the fact that today is International Women's Day and despite the fact that many years have passed since those female garment workers demonstrated for better working conditions, the economic status of women has not changed sufficiently, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That the Minister of National Health and Welfare take steps to ensure that all working mothers have access to day care facilities, that the government accept the concept of equal pay for work of equal occupational status and further that the minister consider the proposal of wages for housework.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43, such a motion cannot be presented without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1410)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
REQUEST THAT CONSUMER MINISTER REVEAL
CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MR.
TURNER

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It has to do with extra-judicial activities in connection with the contempt of court proceedings; both the former minister of finance and the Minister of Public Works have confirmed that they discussed those contempt of court proceedings with the judge involved. Would the minister tell the House about the substance of his conversations with the former minister of finance and the Minis-

ter of Public Works relative to the conversations those gentlemen admitted having?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, last January 30, my counsel, Mr. Gabriel Lapointe, registered an appeal from the judgment made against me by Judge Hugessen in a case of contempt of court. At the same time, he also presented and obtained a request of appeal from the sentence. This case will be heard soon by the Quebec court of appeal. Under the circumstances, I cannot and I will not make any statement related to this matter.

[English]

Mr. Clark: Will the minister tell us—and this information could in no way affect proceedings before the court—whether he invited the former minister of finance and the present Minister of Public Works to intervene in any way with the judge who was in charge of those proceedings?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments to make.

[English]

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
POSSIBLE REQUEST BY CONSUMER MINISTER TO PERSONS
OUTSIDE HOUSE TO INTERVENE

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): We regret very much this refusal to put before the House information relating to the conduct of ministers of the Crown. I wonder whether I might make one final attempt. Having regard to the admission of the Minister of Public Works in this chamber—and the minister appeared to show none of the reluctance exhibited by his colleague today—that he and a great many other public-spirited citizens had spoken to the associate chief justice, could the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tell us whether he asked persons outside this House to intervene on his behalf?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Leader of the Opposition is not a lawyer. If he were, he would certainly understand that when someone is involved in a matter before the courts, that someone has certain rights, and I trust that in this case the hon. member will respect them.

[English]

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—REPLY
OF CHIEF JUSTICE DESCHÊNES TO REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): A supplementary question to the Minister of Justice. Could the hon. gentleman tell us what information he has received since