

*Oral Questions*

## QUEBEC'S INTENTION TO SUE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, this is not the opinion of the Quebec Finance Minister, since he is considering taking legal action against Ottawa to obtain justice in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, are court actions the only way for Quebec to obtain justice and to urge this Government to act?

• (1450)

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance in the Province of Quebec is free to hold his own opinions. I believe that increasing the rates of equalization by more than 5 per cent per annum last year, this year and next year, is the right way to go. We are fully in accord with our responsibilities under the Constitution. We have said we are going to increase the equalization next year and the year after under technical changes in the equalization formula, and I think that this indicates clearly the commitment of the Government toward assisting the provinces that are less well off.

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## STATUS OF WOMEN

REAL WOMEN—INVITATION NOT ISSUED TO ATTEND  
CONFERENCE ON THE FAMILY

**Mr. Sid Fraleigh (Lambton—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women is sponsoring a conference on the family, and for that I commend them. Once again, however, we see discrimination rearing its ugly head. REAL Women, who are perhaps one of the strongest advocates of the family, have been refused an invitation. The flimsy excuse being used is that they were invited last year and, due to the lack of space—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member is using a lengthy preamble to set the tone for his question. I think that the preamble has set the necessary requisites and I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

**Mr. Fraleigh:** Can the Minister offer an explanation for this apparent discrimination?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am very much looking forward to this conference which is being sponsored by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Seventy-five groups will attend from all across Canada, with regional and cultural diversity. There are over 1,000 groups from which they pick the 75, and some 30 per cent of those are turned over every year.

I might point out to the Hon. Member that among those attending are the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Canadian Nurses Association, *Fédération des Femmes du Québec*, the Federation of Junior Leagues of Canada. It will be a very fine conference in which there is no discrimination.

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[Translation]

## THE BUDGET

## DAY CARE SERVICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

After insisting on several occasions on the importance of the family, of employment equity, on the urgency and priority of child care, last night in its Budget the Government totally ignored these matters.

I should like the Minister of Finance to indicate to us what funds we allocated in last night's Budget for child care services? Why is there no funding provided in the Budget, contrary to what the Government had promised?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is well aware of the process set in train in Vancouver last November at the First Minister's Conference where the Prime Minister asked the provinces to work with the federal Government in trying to develop the standards for a national child care program. That is under way right now. There will be reports coming back to the First Ministers whereby we can co-operate with the provinces in dealing with this important initiative. At that time we will be able to take decisions on how we can proceed with the funding.

In the budget speech I have said that processes such as this must continue, and at the appropriate time we will be taking the right decisions. There is opportunity to do so within the fiscal framework.

[Translation]

## ADHERENCE TO COMMITMENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, at this Federal Provincial Conference which was held in Vancouver, the Prime Minister promised that there would be new money in the Budget for child care services. I should like the Prime Minister to tell us if he agrees with his Minister of Finance that there should be no funding in the Budget for child care services. Has the Prime Minister decided that child care services are no longer a priority for his Government? You made a commitment, Mr. Prime Minister. You stated publicly that funding would be provided for child care!