

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton):** My supplemental is for the same minister. Mr. Minister, obviously from what you said, you realize that Canadians have lost complete confidence in the parole system in this nation. As I mentioned, the earlier cases and also the Lègère and Gingras cases, all focus attention on the problem. Obviously victims and communities worry. Victims need to have some input into the system before releases are granted and at the very least they should know when somebody is being released.

Would the Solicitor General be prepared to order a full comprehensive parliamentary review of the parole system, especially with regard to violent and sexual offenders?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I have two points in response to my hon. friend. First, I would like to think that in the fall when we bring forward the reforms I mentioned, that in the discussion and the review of those amendments, we could have that kind of examination.

At the same time, while I appreciate that when dealt with in the specifics, some of these cases do not look as appropriate as my hon. friend and I might think.

I want to say that the temporary absence program is successful. In the fiscal year 1988-89, the success rate in terms of trying to protect the public and rehabilitate people was 99.93 per cent. So there is a fair degree of success to this, while I admit that there are some problems.

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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Just over a year and a half ago, all members of this House shared the tears of the parents of the victims of the Montreal massacre. Before and since then, many of us in this House have talked about violence against women.

The report of the subcommittee on the status of women, entitled *War on Women* has made some extremely useful recommendations, has heard a number of witnesses, men and women from across this country who came to speak to this committee and share the pain of violence. They asked this committee to do something, to

take direct action. It is not only the victims, it is the abusers and it is the children who suffer from violence.

Does the Prime Minister accept the recommendations of the report by the subcommittee to really do something about violence against women or does he support the views of those on his side of the House who rejected this report and refused to endorse it?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** My hon. friend, I think, does perhaps an injustice to some colleagues in the House of Commons. There has been no rejection of any of the provisions of the report.

**Ms. Black:** Many refused to endorse it.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There has been no rejection. As I understand from the distinguished member from Calgary, there was a desire for an opportunity for members of the House to be seized of this and to debate it. There was no rejection.

**Ms. Black:** They had it over a week.

**Mr. Mulroney:** My hon. friend is asking me an important question and I am trying to give an answer. I was not a member of the committee or of the subcommittee. All I know is that the member for Don Valley North, the chairperson of the committee, Barbara Greene, has done an outstanding job.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** To the best of my knowledge, no one has voted against a single provision of the report. The object of the exercise is to bring the subcommittee report forward to the committee and eventually to have the House of Commons enact legislation pursuant to the recommendations of that report. That, I believe, is exactly what will happen.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, the women of Canada have waited a long time to see some serious work on the issue of violence against women. All of us in this House, I am sure, want to see that happen, but we want action now. When we want to put grain handlers back to work, we do it in a day. When want to ensure that arms sales can take place, this government does it in a day.

Will the Prime Minister endorse the recommendations of this subcommittee's report? Will he make sure that these come forward quickly for action now, for the women of Canada, for the children of Canada and end violence in this society, not just talk about it.