

*Point of Order—Mr. Wilson*

day after the closing of the Olympics, to try to put a value on that kind of contribution does not serve him or his Party well. The Minister will make a statement at the right time.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I will recognize the Hon. Member for Outremont, for one question, please.

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**CRIMINAL CODE**

## FAMILY VIOLENCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** My question is directed to the Minister of Justice.

Recently, we had several instances of family violence that could have been prevented. Three women were killed by their husbands during the past six months. In Montreal, on the weekend, a woman was stabbed and beaten by her husband.

These women had asked the authorities several times for protection against their husbands or ex-husbands but failed to obtain that protection.

Could the Minister inform the House whether he is prepared to make changes or amend the present legislation to make threats by husbands or ex-husbands a criminal offence of the same magnitude as threats by others? It seems that under our present legislation, everyone is protected except women who are killed by their husbands.

What does the Minister intend to do in the way of immediate action? Is he prepared to call a conference of provincial Justice Ministers or set up a program like Ontario's Spouses' Assault Program?

What is the Minister going to do in the way of immediate action?

● (1500)

[*English*]

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question by the Hon. Member because it is a serious question about a serious social issue. This Government, through my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and my Department, is working actively on the whole question of family violence as it relates to federal responsibility and jurisdiction. As the Hon. Member pointed out, there is a very significant provincial jurisdiction in this matter and we are attempting to co-ordinate our actions with provincial jurisdictions.

This is a complex issue which is not capable of simplistic resolution. I take the suggestion concerning Criminal Code amendments as a representation and we will give serious consideration to the Hon. Member's proposals.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that the time for Question Period has expired. Did the Hon. Minister of Finance want to rise?

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**POINT OF ORDER**

## CLARIFICATION OF REMARK

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, during the course of Question Period I responded in a somewhat offhand way to my colleague from Trinity. If she took exception to any allusions which might have been expressed in that offhand comment I would point out I simply wished to poke a little fun her way. I am sure she will understand that I did not mean anything in any way derogatory.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I should advise the House that under the circumstances I might ask the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) if she feels that was sufficient.

**Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I of course accept the Minister's withdrawal.

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**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, this morning during Routine Proceedings the suggestion was made that we would ask for unanimous consent to revert to tabling of committee reports to allow the Hon. Member for Sarnia—Lambton (Mr. James), who was unfortunately delayed, to present a legislative committee report. I ask for such unanimous consent at this time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House in agreement?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*English*]

**NON-SMOKERS' HEALTH ACT**PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
BILL C-204

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the legislative committee on Bill C-204, an Act to regulate smoking in the federal workplace and on common carriers and to amend the Hazardous Products Act in relation to cigarette advertising, I have the honour to present Bill C-204 to the House with amendments.

I want to take a brief moment to thank all of those who assisted in the study of this Bill. The Bill establishes a