

The Prime Minister said in his statement of September 9 that he would immediately choose, through the Government Leader in the House, to establish a scrutiny committee for Governor in Council appointments. One and a half months have elapsed since he said that. Could he tell us when the committee will be appointed to scrutinize those Conservative nominations?

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to answer the Hon. Member? As he knows, only last week I made the response on behalf of the Government with respect to the whole question of scrutiny of appointments made by the Government. It was a rather exciting and dramatic initiative as well.

I want to tell the Hon. Member that we have gone further than the recommendations on reform made by the distinguished committee of the House of Commons. We will allow for the provision for scrutiny of all Order in Council appointments. There is no restriction. If only we had this provision during the Liberal years, just imagine what fun we could have had in the Opposition.

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INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications. He will know that the arts community is anxiously awaiting implementation of a large number of recommendations in the report on copyright revision. Will the Parliamentary Secretary give the Government's assurance that there will be legislation before the House by February, as promised?

Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. lady for her question. The report on copyright, which reflects the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Revision of Copyright, of which the hon. lady was a member, will be made available to the Government.

The Government will give those 137 recommendations its consideration. At the appropriate time the Government will introduce legislation. I hope that legislation could be introduced in the House of Commons, subject to negotiations with the House Leaders of other Parties, at the earliest possible moment.

ARTS FUNDING

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, would the Parliamentary Secretary give the assurance that there will be a restoration in the cut-backs to art funding before there will be any new outflow of funds as a result of the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Revision of Copyright?

Oral Questions

Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. lady will realize that this is a matter of Government policy. The Acting Minister of Communications will be in the House next week and I will be happy to draw his attention to the Hon. Member's question.

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[Translation]

STATUS OF WOMEN

METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for the Status of Women. Last September, we learned that CIDA was providing half a million dollars to the International Federation for Family Life Promotion. The purpose of this organization is to provide services in natural family planning to developing countries. Why did the Government choose to support the least effective method of contraception for the women of the Third World? Does this reflect an ideological preference of the Government for natural contraception rather than for other means of contraception?

[English]

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member will know, one of the priorities of the Government and CIDA is women in development projects. My colleague, the Minister for External Relations, who has the responsibility for CIDA, is not in the House. However, I will take notice of the Hon. Member's question and see that she gets a response.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LEAVE CHOICE TO WOMEN

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary was going to be addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but I shall also ask it to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I would like to know why the Minister and the Government have reduced the budgets of organizations which promote all methods of contraception in Canada, such as Planned Parenthood, and why they have increased the amounts allocated to organizations which favour natural means of contraception. Why does the Conservative Government not leave it up to women to choose their own methods of contraception and why does it subsidize mostly the organizations which favour natural methods?

[English]

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member and indicate that this matter has been brought to my attention. I have raised the matter with the Minister of National Health and Welfare, including the concerns expressed by women's groups