

We have already appointed within the Privy Council Office a highly-qualified person whose responsibility it is to ensure informed and co-ordinated Government action with respect to the report. An interdepartmental committee will examine those recommendations directed to the Federal Government. It is under instructions to complete its work as quickly as possible and to submit reports periodically to Cabinet.

A number of the recommendations of the Royal Commission already have been made the subject of proposed Government action. The White Paper on Unemployment Insurance proposed broadened coverage and provisions for interruptions of earnings due to sickness and maternity. The Speech from the Throne in October revealed that Parliament would be asked this session to consider a new set of labour standards for industries within federal jurisdiction. The Speech from the Throne and the list of bills tabled in the House of Commons thereafter included references to citizenship; the draft legislation will attempt to meet those issues raised by the Royal Commission. The recommendation dealing with citizens' information centres is entirely compatible with a major recommendation of the Task Force on Government Information and some progress is already evident.

Programs to serve the needs of women of the Indian and Eskimo cultures are being developed and expanded, and language classes for immigrant women are being supported federally by nearly \$900,000.

In the matter of corrections, there are substantial areas of agreement in the treatment of women offenders between the Ouimet Report and the Bird Report. The Solicitor-General has indicated his interest in attracting to his department women prepared to work in the fields of prevention and rehabilitation.

The Department of National Health and Welfare is taking steps to support the development of family planning in Canada and is prepared to enter into discussion with the provinces on ways and means of establishing high-standard day care.

The problem and the challenge are of wider scope, however, than the acceptance or denial of some or all of these recommendations. They involve the desire of Canadians to employ to the fullest the talents of all Canadians; they involve a desire to excel.... We have attempted, through Order-in-Council appointments, to increase considerably the number of women filling important public offices. In proportion to the number of men occupying positions in this category, the total is still not impressive, but, in comparison with the number of appointments in previous years, the record is one of which I am proud. I propose to better it and invite all Canadians to exhibit impatience with our rate of progress in this respect.

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Until Canada is given the opportunity of utilizing to the full the offerings of all Canadians, this country and the people who live in it will not gain fulfilment. We cannot assume that the contribution of women will be a mere extension of or even support for the contribution of men. Their performance will not only be original, it will be sometimes competitive and