

Supply

[Text]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

Question No. 4,222—**Mr. Gilchrist:**

How many Crown corporations does Canada own and how many persons are employed in each corporation?

Return tabled.

Question No. 4,421—**Mr. Malone:**

How many federal Crown corporations presently exist in Canada and what is the name and headquarter address of each corporation?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Peterson: Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: The question enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):

That this House condemns the Government for the apathy that it has shown toward issues affecting Canadian women and for its failure to promote equality for women, and its inaction with respect to pension reform for women, and its tacit approval of sexual stereotyping and abusive material in the media, as demonstrated by the Government's unwillingness to prevent pornographic films from being shown on pay television, and its lack of commitment to its own affirmative action programme within the public service, and calls upon the Government to immediately establish a standing committee of Parliament empowered to deal with issues that have a particular impact upon women and to review the progress, or lack thereof, made by the Government with respect to such issues.

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, before the House adjourned at one o'clock, I was talking about pensions, with specific reference to the exclusion clause for the raising of children, which is in effect in Quebec. Quebec women are extremely lucky in this respect. However, there is still a serious problem in the rest of Canada. In order to enable young mothers to stay home for seven years after the birth of a child without losing their pension continuity, the Federal Government must have the signatures of two-thirds of the provincial governments representing two-thirds of the Canadian population. Our Government has tried several times to obtain a joint agreement with the other provinces. Several provinces refused, including Ontario, which holds the balance of power because of its large population. As a Member of the Government, I am

willing to accept criticism when it is justified, but in the case I have just described, I am afraid the provinces are at fault.

If we really want to maximize the benefits of this Opposition day, Mr. Speaker, we should refresh our memory with respect to a number of problems affecting the status of women. If there is one subject that does not deserve to be the subject of bickering by the House, it is indeed this one. The study on battered wives has revealed one more injustice among so many others. If only there were enough time to discuss pension problems, equal pay for equal work, daycare, exploitation of women, sexual harassment, sexual stereotyping in the media, discrimination against Indian women, and there are many more.

I can assure the House and the Members opposite that we on this side of the House are fully aware of the very difficult problems women have to face. In enumerating these problems, I also want to make it clear to Hon. Members that in many cases, although it would like to do so, the Government is prevented from improving the situation. For instance, under Section 56.1 of the non-profit housing program, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has set aside 151 units for use as transition houses, but here again, the initiative must come from the provinces and the municipalities.

Regarding the issue of equal pay for equal work, women must learn to submit complaints to the Human Rights Commission when their rights have been abused. I had the honour of sitting on the Committee on Wife Battering, and before that I sat on the Committee on the Handicapped, and I am pleased to say that both committee reports have been followed up by our Government. We tabled our report on Violence in the Family in May 1982. I must say that the Government acted on the recommendations that were within its jurisdiction, but unfortunately, here again, many of the seventeen recommendations fell under joint federal-provincial jurisdiction and we are still waiting.

The Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Kaplan) has instructed the executive of the chiefs of police of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to set up immediately a training program for policemen on family violence. Alberta and Manitoba policemen can now put assailants under arrest.

As I said, it is now up to the people to make strong representations to the provincial authorities so that this practice will be extended to the rest of the country. The Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada has established a national information centre on family violence, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) has sent a pamphlet on battered women to all those who receive family allowances.

Last August, our Government passed Bill C-127 to amend the Criminal Code as it relates to sexual assault. This new