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| House of Representatives on Family and Community Affairs | 6/8/03 4208 |
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I WRITE TO ~~PROTEST THE CHANGES~~
PROPOSED TO THE 'CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENT
LAWS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SAID CHANGES SEEM TO ME TO BE SIMPLISTIC
AND TOTALLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHAT
GOES ON IN THE REAL WORLD OF FAMILY
BREAK-UPS.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES SEEM TO OVERLOOK
THE PROBLEMS OF ABUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS -
CHILDREN WHO DO NOT WISH TO LIVE WITH THE
MALE PARTNER FOR WHATEVER REASONS -
OR THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM EX-
PARTNERS LIVING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF
THE COUNTRY, OFTEN BECAUSE THE FEMALE
PARTNER HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE AWAY
TO AVOID HARASSMENT FROM THE EX PARTNER

I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE AFTER SEEING
THE PROBLEMS MY OWN DAUGHTER HAS HAD
TO COPE WITH SINCE THE BREAK-UP OF HER
ABUSIVE MARRIAGE 3 OR MORE YEARS AGO.

(SO MUCH FOR THE G.S.T. SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE 'BLACK' ECONOMY.) I KNOW OF OTHER MEN WHO DO THE SAME THINGS, TO AVOID THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

NO TWO CASES ARE THE SAME WHEN FAMILIES BREAK UP. EACH CASE SHOULD BE DECIDED ON ITS MERITS BY THE FAMILY COURT. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO APPLY A 'BLACK AND WHITE' RULE TO EVERY CASE.

I WOULD URGE THE ENQUIRY TO CONSULT WITH EVERY BRANCH OF FAMILY LAW, AND TAKE ALL SIDES VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT - NOT JUST THE URGINGS OF THE 'MENS LOBBY'.

IN CLOSING I ONCE AGAIN URGE YOU TO RE-CONSIDER THESE PROPOSED CHANGES.

YOURS SINCERELY A. LEWIS
A. Lewis