

thought would take too long. I will therefore limit myself to an acknowledgement of this situation.

For many generations, outstanding evidence has been offered that there were no reasons for considering one half, at least, of humanity as inferior to the other. Little by little, a few scraps of rights and privileges were granted, which no doubt improved the situation.

An individual capable only of preparing meals and looking after children was made a more responsible being by the granting, for instance, of the right to vote. Then this was discussed more and more widely, until some degree of civic and legal equality was achieved.

In other words, the total emancipation of women is accepted, but with some reservations. All too often, this emancipation remains theoretical. In practice, people continue to act as though women were at an inferior level.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this situation is deplorable and that it even proves disastrous. The result is obvious, in the form of a society headed almost exclusively by men. I realize that a whole mentality and deeply rooted habits may have to be changed in order to achieve complete equality. Perhaps women themselves are not enough aware of every opportunity available to them.

However, I feel we should do a lot more to speed up the process of emancipation and progress of Canadian women. On the basis that there is to be no difference between man and woman apart from the physiological point of view, one is entitled to wonder why practically all management and legislative activities are carried out exclusively by men.

Obviously, if the true principle of democracy were to be integrally applied in this House, half of our representatives would have to be women since the population of any country is divided somewhat equally into males and females. Fortunately, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) is here to save a small fragment of democracy.

This situation would be corrected by effecting a new distribution of the Commons seats. Canada could have some 150 constituencies represented by both a male and a female member. Then the absolute equality we are seeking would thus be achieved at the parliamentary level.

Some people will laugh at this suggestion but when we see so many men apparently lost in a maze of thoughts which are more or less constructive, I wonder the practical way of thinking and action which characterizes women could not bring a little more efficiency to the business of this House.

Their practical common sense, their taste for what is concrete, and even their intuition would offset the lubrications of some hon. members. Women in this country have been proving for generations that they know how to manage a house and are quite able to do so. Most of our homes, at least in Quebec, have been managed by women. They have been entrusted almost exclusively with the education of children at home, and they have done a marvellous job.

And what about the tremendous success obtained by all the institutions run by nuns? Mr. Speaker, I say it

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again, there is a lack of women in our government services. They have neither soul nor heart. How I understand why the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), has at last decided to fill the void in his life! May his charming wife, by sharing somewhat his authority, make more flexible he who was turning into the greatest dictator of all Canadian Prime Ministers.

To come back to the precise wording of the motion, I would like to point out the uselessness of the recommendation for—

—the inclusion of housewives in the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans—

—and I explain myself, Mr. Speaker.

All women who contribute to pension plans will be entitled to benefits. Therefore there is no problem in that area. The problem is not there, but rather in the fact that the housewife, in the home, is not considered a worker in the same capacity as any other employee. She works unceasingly to achieve a grand objective, that of preparing our youngsters to take their responsibilities tomorrow, or to support the actions of responsible adults. In short, the woman in the home is a professional and at the same time a manual worker. Yet, she is not paid for it. That is unfair, Mr. Speaker. And so, the problem would be solved by granting adequate compensation to the woman in the home. She could be included in pension plans and receive the benefits provided for at the proper time.

The maternity benefits mentioned in the motion under consideration deserve my whole support. It is loathsome to see unemployment insurance investigators discourage mothers-to-be by telling them that they are not entitled to benefits owing to their condition. This is degrading the most beautiful function of mankind, which has enabled all of us to be here and is responsible for our existence. This deficiency should have long been corrected.

As for the establishment of a family planning program, I am reluctant when I think about the real intentions of our good friends from the N.D.P.; as for their planning, ranging from all kinds of contraception means up to abortion, I cannot accept it.

In a country as rich as ours which has to deal with overproduction problems, in a vast country where communication problems arise, a country in which, among other things, the birthrate has decreased to a point which I find alarming—especially in Quebec where the average has suddenly declined from 5.4 to barely 1.8 per family, such conditions are, in my opinion, disastrous.

At this rate, the francophone element of our country shall disappear more or less rapidly. That is no doubt one of the reasons why certain people want desperately to establish a boundary around Quebec.

As for the other recommendations of the motion, I think that these deserve full consideration from the House. Equality of treatment in the public service is intimately tied to the basic principle: equal work, equal salary. No discrimination should be tolerated in this respect.

Calling a federal-provincial conference for considering implementation of the Commission's recommendations