

Government Orders

So my question is: why should women who work in a federally regulated sector in Quebec not have the same right to be reassigned which would allow them to stay on the job during their pregnancy?

The proposed changes will help correct the imbalance between the rights of the employer and the rights of a female employee. The employer will have to make every reasonable effort, either to change the tasks of a pregnant or nursing employee or to reassign her if the employee's physician is of the opinion that her present state of health so requires.

Today's bill proposes more flexible conditions to determine when an employee may take parental leave. For instance, employees may choose the timing of their parental leave. The purpose here is to help parents find the best way to combine work with family responsibilities.

Further changes will ensure wage protection, maintenance of social benefits and the return to work of injured employees when possible, while at the same time clarifying federal powers and releasing employers from the obligation to engage in costly legal proceedings against the provinces.

As you know, most employers already participate in provincial workers' compensation plans or private insurance plans. These employers will not have to pay additional costs.

Those who are not in any insurance plan may be sued by workers injured on the job. The proposal would ensure that there is money to compensate workers involved in accidents.

To conclude, I would like to add that the people of my riding and of many other parts of Canada support this bill that will ultimately benefit Canadians. I have personally supported the Minister of Labour on many occasions in his efforts to bring forward this bill.

I wish to say to Liberal and NDP members that our government has the responsibility to better protect pregnant or nursing women employed in federally-regulated companies. Therefore we must legislate on this. Once again, I reiterate my support for the proposed changes and ask members on both sides of the House to support them also.

In closing, I thank all the women in Canada who for years have been asking the Canadian government for justice. I thank Renée Godmer and her staff; I thank Canadian employers and unions for their involvement in

this issue and especially thank the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On a point of order, the hon. Minister of Labour.

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[English]

**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES RESTRAINT ACT,
1993 NO. 2**

NOTICE OF ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER SECOND
READING STAGE OF BILL C-113

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 78(1) or (2) with respect to second reading of Bill C-113, an act to provide for government expenditure restraint. Under the provision of Standing Order 78(3) I give notice of my intention to move a time allocation motion at the next sitting of the House for the purpose of allocating a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at the second reading stage.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Danis that Bill C-101, an act to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Staff Relations Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Human Resources envelope.

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of my colleague from Abitibi before I get my opportunity to speak on this particular bill.

I know that my colleague from Abitibi has been working very hard on the issue of the place of pregnant women in the work force and the difficulties that they face as it relates to their unborn child and in some instances their child that is an infant.

Would he be able to give us his government's analysis of why the minister put in the bill the employer's last offer amendment which deals of course with a grave infringement on the collective bargaining rights of workers and could he give us a synopsis because, as you well know, we are not allowed to ask the minister questions when he gives his speech. Maybe the member for Abitibi could give us an explanation of the government's rationale as to why this particular amendment is in the bill.