

Museums

support to promote these museums across Canada. I believe that the Government is missing an even greater return on this existing investment because of its attitude toward its lack of marketing support.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties and I believe you will find unanimous consent for us to continue past one o'clock, through the hour normally reserved for the lunch period, in order to allow us to complete second reading of Bill C-12, the museums Bill, and to complete report and third reading stages of Bill C-6, the radio Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it so agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On debate, the Hon. Member for Mission—Coquitlam.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, today, museums are cutting back on people in the same manner as many other areas of our society. Museums are about our culture and about our achievements. People should be very much a part of our museums. Without people, museums are very much a graveyard of our society. It takes people to bring museums alive. They should be vibrant places of our culture, our history, and places that look to our future.

Exhibits should not only be displays, especially in the areas of science and technology. Items that have been used by generations of Canadians or by generations of peoples around the world should be displayed in such a manner that we can feel them, touch them, and try them, particularly with our new technology. Machines are not made to be looked at. Machines are made to be used and to be handled. Our museums need to reflect those human touches, and for that we need funding and a commitment to the human element in our society.

Many museums remove the human element by having free days on a Thursday or a Tuesday, without consultation with the community or without consideration of when people work and when people are free to attend museums. Therefore, museums are further restricted particularly to those people who cannot afford to go to a museum and would like to have their children exposed to

our culture. Those people need access. Museums have to reflect and consult with the community in terms of accessibility, including those museums located in Ottawa. There is a movement in France which is trying to put people back into museums. It is one which we should be looking at in Canada and trying to emulate.

• (1300)

Free trade has further attacked our culture and our industries. With them already under attack and with museums being a reflection of our culture, then are not museums under attack, too? Some museums are just for a tiny minority of people. They really are not a great reflection of our culture. For example, many museums do not have displays celebrating the labour movement in Canada, which movement helped to make the country what it is today.

Many museums do not have displays which reflect the ethnocultural nature of Canada. Many museums do not have displays which celebrate the environment.

Our museums need to reflect the true strata of Canada, its peoples, the environment and the assets which make Canada great.

In an independent study of the museums' workforce it was found that there are two major sources of inequality that are closely interdependent in the museums. It comes down to who staffs our museums. Museums are gender-based and institutionalized-based organizations with great differentiations in the labour force. Simply put, women make substantially less money working for museums than do men. We have checked and found this to be true even after the major alternate explanations of income differences, controls and all of the other factors are taken into account. In other words, significant income differences remain between the sexes even after education and experience levels are held constant.

Although there are virtually identical over-all labour force participation rates for men and women, over 70 per cent of employees in the relatively disadvantaged and smaller institutions are women. When the Government moved to dismantle or reorganize the largest, most advantaged museums, we learned that those women who had achieved senior positions were, in many cases, shut out of significant positions in the new structure. New Democrats have raised concerns about equality in our cultural institutions for many years. Our national mu-