

*Motions*

ity Rights of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, presented to the House on Friday, October 25, 1985, be concurred in.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone)?

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Speaker, I found the remarks of the Hon. Member both interesting and ironic, particularly her remarks with respect to the fact that her Party endorses wholeheartedly all of the recommendations in the *Equality for All* report.

The Party of which the Hon. Member is a member formed the Government of this land for some 20 years after this House passed the Canadian Bill of Rights, which was introduced in this House by the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker, a former Prime Minister of this country. After that introduction, the Hon. Member's Party formed the Government for some 20 virtually consecutive years.

If the Hon. Member's Party so emphatically endorses all of these recommendations, why were they not implemented during those 20 years?

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to answer my hon. colleague and perhaps refresh his memory. First, the Constitution is a brand new Constitution.

**An Hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mrs. Finestone:** Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker. We brought back the Constitution and put into that Constitution a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In that Charter, which will have a very profound effect on our society, was Section 15. I do not wish to give the Hon. Member a history lesson but I will take him all the way back to see who brought in the progressive undertakings with respect to women. It was certainly not his Party. The Hon. Member laughed about the Constitution I would like to remind him that we had to fight with the Conservatives about the flag, the Constitution, to maintain our Canadian independence, and we are still fighting the Government to have Canadian independence with respect to free trade.

With respect to equality, I would suggest to the Hon. Member that the report which was undertaken by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the application and the foundation of the Advisory Council, moved to undertake the first study of the situation of the handicapped, moved to take a look at equality for visible minorities, and first talked about Indian nationhood. Tell me, Mr. Speaker, were those the moves of the Conservative Party? They were not. They might have been signed in by the Conservative Party, but it inherited what it could not avoid.

**Mr. Schellenberg:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the comments of the Hon. Member about women in combat roles. I wonder if she could tell us whether the purposes and needs of the Government, and of Hon. Members in this Chamber, would not be better served if we spent less time discussing the roles of women in combat, how they can get into

combat, and perhaps more time discussing ways to keep men out of combat?

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, I agree 100 per cent with the Hon. Member's observations. If I had my druthers, we would not have combat. Second, as a mother of only sons, I would be most anxious not to have them anywhere near the combat field. More important, the question really is, should we not be concerned at all about women's rights because essentially men have had those rights? What women want is equal opportunity and equal access. Those people who wish to serve their country in that way, God bless them, we need them, both the men and the women.

**Mr. Attewell:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment and perhaps ask a question of the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone). The report may cover it, I honestly cannot recall where it is covered, but several months ago I decided that we would try to hire a disabled person in our constituency office. I telephoned the Employment and Immigration office on Yonge Street. I was very pleased to find that it had a separate section and a supervisor who helped in placing disabled people in jobs within North York and the surrounding area.

I outlined my specifications. We needed someone who was able to type and do some telephone work. Within two weeks a young woman in her mid-twenties was referred to us. Her name is Eva Kron. A bus picks her up at her apartment because she is on crutches and she works two full days a week mailing citizenship certificates, when I receive the lists from Ottawa, with a covering letter and doing other work.

I know there is a separate section in the report on access to the physically disabled, but I wonder if the committee in its deliberations dealt with this subject? I used this young woman as an example. I wonder whether the Government should be doing more in this area to help the disabled in terms of finding full-time and part-time jobs? As I say, I may have overlooked the section in the report. Would the Hon. Member for Mount Royal care to comment on that? I have had good experience myself.

● (1640)

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has just given living testimony in support of that which we heard across the land. That is to say: Look at our abilities and not at our disabilities. Those employers, such as the Hon. Member, who are willing to look at people for what they can bring to the task and for their competence and skill are doubly blessed because they obtain a very good and sound employee. The *Obstacles* report, and the two follow-up reports, indicate that many people are not using the full talents of the handicapped in our society because they do not know any better. Some of it has to do with education. Some of it has to do with the fact that they have no access. That has to do with the dollars which we need to reorganize our buildings.

The area about which the Hon. Member is concerned is dealt with in Recommendations No. 41 through 57. I would