

*Canadian Human Rights*

like to read a poem which I have quoted previously. It is my favourite poem. It reads:

Eternal spirit of the chainless mind,  
 Brightest in dungeons, Liberty, thou art,  
 For there thy habitation is the heart—  
 The heart which love of thee alone can bind;  
 And when thy sons to fetters are consigned—  
 To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless gloom,  
 Their country conquers with their martyrdom,  
 And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.  
 Chillon. Thy prison is a holy place,  
 And thy sad floor and altar—for 'twas trod,  
 Until his very steps have left a trace  
 Worn, as if the cold pavement were a sod,  
 By Bonnivard. May none those marks efface!  
 May they appeal from Tyranny to God.

To me it is within the spirit and soul of man and woman whether we are going to have human rights or not. You cannot legislate morality. You can legislate kindness. You can legislate against bigots. You can only educate and try to enlighten people. It is in the flow of education and enlightenment, and in the soul of men and women, that you can bring about real equality and end discrimination wherever it exists.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Francis):** The hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott).

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Jean E. Pigott (Ottawa-Carleton):** Thank you. I would like to begin my bachelor speech—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Pigott:** —by congratulating Mr. Speaker and Mr. Deputy Speaker on their chairing of the debates of this House. In my three short months here I have come to realize that the spirit of impartiality and good humour that radiates from their presence is vital to the functioning of this great Chamber.

I suppose that every politician likes to think of his or her constituency as being a microcosm of the nation. In the case of Ottawa-Carleton, this claim is correct. Ottawa-Carleton is partly urban, partly suburban, and partly rural. The riding contains more public servants than the average, it is true, but in most other respects it is very typical. Most important, perhaps, the balance between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians is about the same as in the nation as a whole.

● (2120)

In such areas as urban planning, housing, transport, bilingualism, decentralization, and the withdrawal of farmland from production, Ottawa-Carleton is a cross section of Canada. In my three short months here the telephone calls, the constituency visitors and the letters are all beginning to show a pattern of people who are human and who feel caught in the machinery of big government, big companies and big trade unions. They sense a faceless, remote power which is not concerned about

[Mr. Woolliams.]

them as people. We need more listening posts where people can find concern, humanity, and justice.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Pigott:** In the years to come my riding will be a critical testing ground for the ability of the government of Canada to come to terms with the serious problems facing our country today. But overriding each of the difficulties before us now is the larger more human concern about the well-being of Canadians. It is in regard to the problems of individual people that I wish to speak on the proposed human rights legislation.

We welcome the bill. We are anxious to see it proceed as quickly as possible to a point where Canada can claim the entrenchment of human rights legislation exemplifying the spirit of the Declaration of Human Rights as approved by the United Nations. There are, however, certain points in the bill where some amendments might improve the law. Ultimately, of course, Canadians will make the guarantee of human rights a reality in our country. Proper legislation and education, however, can be very effective agents of this process.

No mention of human rights in Canada can be made without the recognition of the leading role of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) in pioneering legislation in this important area.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Pigott:** I would like to join the minister and other hon. members in paying tribute to the right hon. member for his significant contribution to the area of human rights and to the spirit of that concern which carries forward today.

I am by occupation a businesswoman. You and I, Your Honour, as bakers, come from the same business background. For many years I have operated an enterprise employing hundreds of persons. I know the necessity of encouraging and maximizing the optimum use of every asset, and human resources are still the most vital asset of any company or any country. There is a need for governments, through leadership, example and prudent legislation, to establish a climate within which individuals can pursue their own goals. It is the responsibility of the federal government to encourage the various elements of our complex society to work in harmony for the well-being of all Canadians.

One of my favourite stories relates to Michelangelo when he was carving the beautiful statue of David. A young boy sat watching as he chipped away the stone, and the figure of David began to emerge. Finally, as he was putting the finishing touches to the work, the lad came up, pulled Michelangelo's sleeve and said, "How did you know he was in there?" As the economic, social, and cultural forces in our national life chip away at the large stone called Canada, I pray there will be many Davids emerging to take roles in business, politics, and labour to slay the Goliaths of mistrust, greed, intolerance, waste, and fear which keep us from maximizing the human potential of all Canadians.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!