

*Government Orders*

could be debating it at all. We should all be saying that we agree with it.

Really all the motion is asking is for us to look at ways in which we could change, modernize and up-date our social system. This needs to happen. We cannot have an inflexible system. We are moving into the 21st century. Our needs have changed. Our economic way of living has changed. We need to look at how we do things to make them not only more efficient but more applicable to the needs of the people and more cost effective.

• (1540)

It does not mean that we are talking about cutting programs. We are talking about making them more efficient. The minister has invited not only all of the members across the floor in both opposition parties, but he has invited the people of Canada, the provinces, the municipalities and non-governmental organizations to work together to find that common ground.

It is not a coincidence that the Liberal Party was elected with a specific mandate to find that common ground. Nor is it a coincidence that when we put our red book forward it contained a total package of a plan for the future of this country. It is in fact because of a strong Liberal tradition and heritage that the Liberal Party has recognized the need for a socially responsible society.

Socially responsible means allowing people the dignity of working, as the Prime Minister has said so often, and allowing them to do so by giving them the skills to enable them to get to that position.

There are always going to be people in our country who will not be able to realize their full potential by working. We will always have among us people who will be disabled in some way. That is the social safety net. However the ability to bring people into realizing their full potential is the Liberal way. That is what this motion does.

This motion speaks to making our system more applicable and more able to move us further into the 21st century so that Canadians can become strongly independent people, recognizing their full potential and able to contribute to this country. That is all the motion states.

The debates I hear are pre-empting the results of that kind of consultation around this country. They have pre-empted it. That is one of the problems that people have always had with our political system. We have never allowed a process of consultation to work. We sit and indulge in rhetoric. We score points on each other by trying to say that this is what we are going to be doing and what we are not going to be doing.

The motion is clear. It asks for our co-operation and our commitment to looking at how we change our system. It asks no

more than that. It is a promise that the Liberal government made. It is a promise in the red book. Everyone has heard about the red book. It is not a magic book. It has not some wondrous tone that one has to have a Ph.D. in literature to understand. It is a simple articulation of the core value of the Canadian people, which is what we and our Prime Minister seem to have been able to articulate very well.

It has been two years in the making. We consulted not just with Liberals but with people all across the country and around the world regardless of their political stripe. We brought them in to talk about the need for change, to look at not changing the bottom line, which is a strong sense of fiscal discipline together with social responsibility, but how we can do that differently.

It is obvious that the old ways have not worked. It is obvious that the solutions we used in the past were useless. We are saying: "Let us work together to change this, to make it different".

I do not even know why we are debating this motion, hon. colleagues across the floor and within my own party. It is obvious to me that it is the only course of action we must take. What I would like to ask of members instead is that they come together with us in this endeavour, that they co-operate, that they help to consult and that they help to make the difference.

People have elected us for change. They have elected all of us, the Reform Party and the Liberal Party across Canada, to help move this country forward so that we can be globally competitive and that our individual Canadians can be independent. That is what we would like members to do. Let us do it together so that we can create a country that we can all, regardless of our political stripe, be proud of.

**Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the member for Vancouver Centre. The Liberal Party had nine years in opposition to consult and we received this little red book. What does the member think the Liberal government can do in nine months? It is not time for a decision.

• (1545)

**Ms. Fry:** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I do not understand the member's question very well. He said that the Liberal government has had nine years to consult. Is that the question?

The Liberal government has been in opposition for the last nine years. It has not been a position to set the course for this country. Now that the Liberals are in government it has taken the bull by the horns. We have not sat around and gazed at our navel. We have decided on a plan of action. Let us get on with it. There is a time line to this. We promised to follow a specific time line and we are going to do it. A report will be ready by September 1994 and we are saying, help us to do it.

**Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, I was delighted by the comments of the hon. member.