

*Government Orders*

• (1505)

The hon. member and his colleagues have fully participated in these debates. I think the public will agree, even if he does not, that we have had and will continue to have a serious and important legislative program.

Our priority today and tomorrow will be third reading stage of Bill C-64, the employment equity legislation. I wonder if he is saying to one of his colleagues he does not consider that an important bill. If this bill is not completed when we adjourn tomorrow we will resume its consideration on October 16.

Following that, we will call Bill S-9 involving the U.S.-Canada income tax convention, followed by any other bills that have been or are about to be reported from committees. A number of bills are in the late stages of consideration in committees and we hope to have them reported soon.

We will then call second reading of the bill creating the Law Commission of Canada to be introduced tomorrow, followed by the tax convention legislation that was introduced this morning.

I am pleased to give this statement of the important and substantial government business, the balance of which we will be calling for this week and after we return from the break for Thanksgiving.

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**POINTS OF ORDER**

## COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, this arises out of question period when the minister questioned my commitment to Frog Lake. I would like it on the record that I have lived on the reserve and taught on the reserve. I have had foster children living with me from that reserve. There is no way to question my commitment to those people and the crisis they are facing right now.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATUS OF DISABLED PERSONS

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I think you will find unanimous consent for the following motion:

That four members of the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons be authorized to travel to Halifax, Nova Scotia to attend the meeting of provincial disability advisory councils October 17 and 18, 1995.

(Motion agreed to.)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.)** moved that Bill C-64, an act respecting employment equity, be read the third time and passed.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as the House leader said a few minutes ago, this is a very important legislative initiative by the government.

In introducing it on third reading, I take the opportunity to thank several colleagues in the House. As members will recall, we introduced the bill with something of a legislative experiment. Rather than going to the normal first and second readings, we introduced it after the first reading so that a legislative committee would have the full opportunity to actually shape the bill. In this way it would not simply be a matter of responding to a series of government propositions but would actually take a major role in defining and designing the elements it felt would be most important.

I thank the members of the committee on human rights and disabled people for their enormous amount of work, the number of hearings and the amount of time they have given. That applies to members on all sides of the House.

I also give my appreciation to the Secretary of State for Youth and Training and to my parliamentary secretary who have both worked very diligently in making sure the bill was again effectively presented to the House. At report stage we were able to get, as I see from *Hansard*, a very effective debate and response.

• (1510)

A good sign of the way that worked is when the opposition party presented amendments which improved the bill and we were prepared to accept those amendments and work with them so the bill would be a better piece of work. I compliment those members who have worked so hard on this legislation.

Bill C-64 has one fundamental purpose, to remove the systemic barriers that prevent people from going to work. We can put it all together in one sentence but since I have 30 minutes I will take more to elaborate.

What we really mean is that over the years practices, attitudes and conventional habits have built up in a wide variety of workplaces which have prevented people from using their God given talents and abilities not because of their merit but because of some label attached to them.

I am not referring to outright bigotry or discrimination but the kind of informal practices and rules that develop over the years, over generations, that simply build up a series of handicaps,