[*English*]

They want to be team players. They do not always want to be the ones coming forward with complaints.

The suggestion on the government side of the House that women are protected under this legislation is absolute nonsense.

[*Translation*]

There are many reasons why people may have to quit their jobs. Did any members here ever have to quit their job? My father became ill and never recovered. I left my job because I was working in a city far from home and my father was dying. Was that a good reason? Should I have gone to court and waited three, six or nine months or a year to explain that I wanted to be with my father at that painful time in his life?

Some hon. members: No problem, that will be taken care of.

Ms. Copps: Some members are saying: No problem, that will be taken care of. After Bill C-21 was passed, 200,000 Canadians filed complaints, and it has taken months and months to settle them.

It is interesting to listen to the speeches of Conservative members who admit they will fight this bill to the very end, and I am thinking of the hon. member for Jonquière.

An hon. member: Oh, he is a real sob sister.

Ms. Copps: He said it was like using a sledge hammer to crack a nut, the nut being the average citizen. When the hon. member for Saint-Léonard proposed this motion, it was intended to highlight suggestions made by Conservative members during the parliamentary recess.

• (1720)

The Conservative member for Beauce said that MPs should attack the conditions that create unemployment and not the unemployed. I agree. We must attack the causes and not the victims. The Conservative member for Abitibi again said that he would abstain. He can be for or against, but he should have the courage to take a stand. Otherwise Mr. Speaker, he will remind me of a little dog that barks, but when the time comes, cannot bite. He is a little lapdog. The member is a little lapdog who cannot say either yes—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. The hon. member for Terrebonne on a point of order.

Mr. Robitaille: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Hamilton East has just called my colleague a dog and a lapdog. You should consider that unparliamentary. I would ask you to ask the member to withdraw what she just said.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On the same point of order, the hon. member for Saint-Denis.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, we must not exaggerate. I was here. I listened closely to the hon. member. She did not say what the hon. member for Terrebonne just said. What she said may not be nice, but it is certainly not against the rules. She did not say that the hon. member was a dog. She has too much respect for all members. She said that he reminded her of a barking dog. That is not the same and it is certainly not unparliamentary. I admit that it may be embarrassing for the one who is the subject of the comparison, but it is not unparliamentary.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On the same point of order, the hon. member for Abitibi.

Mr. Saint-Julien: Mr. Speaker, further to what the member said, I want to tell Canadians that I do not listen to criticism from people who have a bad attitude.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On the same point of order, the hon. member for Richelieu.

Mr. Plamondon: Mr. Speaker, it is quite rare for me to fully agree with my colleague from Montreal who just spoke, but this time I fully agree, and no doubt—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry, the hon. member for Richelieu has too much parliamentary experience for me to take his remark, which is not a point of order.