

Let me deal with the area of child care. The last thing the Government needed at this time of fiscal restraint and concern over the deficit was to spend hundreds of thousands, perhaps a million dollars on another task force. The need for a variety of child care services has already been demonstrated and we simply need to find a mechanism to put it into place. This does not involve simple economics but a creative approach to how we will look after our youth who are the future of this country. I hope the Government will realize that our youth are the future of this country, and becomes aware of what it is doing to our youth, even up to the age of 25 and 30.

If the Government is going to spend this amount of money on a task force which will result in this protracted delay, I am tempted to encourage mothers to take Mila Mulroney's advice and begin bringing their children to the office.

Sexual orientation must be specifically added to the list of prohibitive grounds for discrimination in employment, housing and accommodation, contracts and services. People whose sexual orientation is gay or lesbian ought not to be excluded from the protection afforded all other citizens, either through the neglect or failure of Government to develop the legislation that would provide that protection. To leave one group in society without such protection and open to discrimination is a dangerous precedent. In a democracy it is equally dangerous to leave the decision about the inclusion or exclusion of any particular group from human rights safeguards to the will of the many at any moment in history.

● (1630)

Homosexual people, like everyone else, deserve a fair chance, not a special chance. I know that this is a difficult thing to understand but it is something we must remember.

With respect to religious holidays, we have not gone far enough in our efforts to amend laws which result in religious minorities being discriminated against. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) says he will try to "reasonably accommodate" people whose days of religious observance do not fall on Sundays or other statutory holidays, possibly by allowing them to take alternate holidays. The Government must not stop short of adopting the Justice Committee's recommendation that it enshrine this principle in amendments to the Canada Labour Code.

We heard moving testimony about the existing inequalities which persist in our society. They serve as a clear reminder to all Canadians that the protection of equality rights cannot be taken for granted. Constant vigilance and monitoring by all concerned citizens is necessary. Let us do the right thing now and make the needed changes. This is a progressive report, let us not be faced with a regressive answer.

My Party has endorsed the report and I hope we will see forward movement and an application of Section 15. Let us ensure that individual minority rights are not the subject of majoritarian views. All of us together must be prepared to fight for our Charter of Rights. In clear human terms we wish to make Canada a real bastion of equality, humanity and decency for all Canadians. With these Charter revisions, we

will have advanced to the point at which many deficiencies will have been redressed and we stand quietly proud as a role model in our world global village.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will have a question and answer period in one moment.

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### THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House,  
Ottawa,

March 26, 1986

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Gérard V. J. La Forest, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 26th day of March, 1986, at 4.30 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,  
Leopold H. Amyot  
Secretary to the Governor General

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed the following bills: Bill C-101, An Act granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1986; Bill C-102, An Act granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1987.

[English]

Bill C-85, an Act to amend the Petroleum Incentives Program Act (without amendment), and Bill C-100, an Act to amend the Army Benevolent Fund Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the Pension Act, the Veterans' Land Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act, without amendment.

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### EQUALITY RIGHTS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Robinson that the first report of the Subcommittee on Equal-