

*Government Orders*

persons seeking nominations. Understandably we are not proceeding with that recommendation at this stage because some nominations have already taken place and had taken place before we received the report.

In order to avoid controversy on that one during this particular election it was deferred to what we are calling phase three of our committee work. We hope to have it in place in time for the election after the 1993 election.

Second, it recommended that child care expenses be deductible by the primary caregiver when that person is seeking nomination for elected office as a candidate for a party and also during the period of the election itself.

Both these recommendations found favour with the committee and were included in the committee's report to this House, which was tabled in December of last year, but both have been ignored by the government. They were taken out of the draft bill and ignored by the government.

Unfortunately it will be difficult for us as members to try to get those amendments back in because both being changes in the taxation law, subject to advice we will get in due course from parliamentary counsel they may require royal recommendation. If that is so we may have difficulty, although it is taking tax off and we may be able to move them. We will do our utmost to see that those changes are put back in place. Apparently, the government has expressed an unwillingness to deal with them and we are surprised at that unwillingness.

In addition, there was a major recommendation to provide an incentive to political parties to actively recruit women candidates. That recommendation was that if after the next election fewer than 20 per cent of the members of this House were women then in the following election any registered political party that managed to elect women as 20 per cent of its caucus would receive an additional reimbursement from Elections Canada. All the political parties are entitled to reimbursement of their expenses from Elections Canada to a certain degree after the electoral event is concluded.

The proposal the royal commission made was that a party could get up to 50 per cent additional money back depending on the percentage of women in its caucus.

For example, if the caucus was 25 per cent women the reimbursement would be 125 per cent of what it would otherwise be. It was a financial incentive of some significance that was offered to political parties.

We in this party have favoured and consistently pressed for this change in the law. We could not get agreement in the committee to bring forward this recommendation to this House. Again, we believe it is one that should be in this bill and we will continue to press for its inclusion in this bill. It could be included in phase two but so far we have not got agreement in the committee to put it in there.

We are concerned that the important and far-reaching recommendations of the royal commission, which will admittedly not solve the problem entirely but will at least assist in solving the problem of under-representation of women in this House, are being ignored.

• (1945)

We feel that the recommendations are not ones that are overly demanding or onerous, but they will make it easier for women to access the electoral system. We feel it is important for the system and for the obligation members of this House have to represent the country. We believe the House should be more representative and we support these limited recommendations that the royal commission has put forward. We are surprised that the members of the Conservative Party are not supporting these recommendations.

On the last one, the major recommendation about extra payment to the parties, even the women's group in the Conservative Party showed a complete lack of support for it. It indicated that it did not feel that such a change was necessary. I am frankly shocked. I would have at least expected support from that quarter but even those women, at least those who are running that organization, did not feel it was necessary in spite of the very poor showing of their party in having women as members of the caucus. I realize the Prime Minister talks