

reduce farm fuel input costs, especially in view of the fact that the Minister has reduced the grain prices?

• (1500)

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The premise of your question is wrong.

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, I farm in that area. My recollection is that the prices of diesel fuel have come down by something in the order of 10 cents a litre since they reached their peak. What the Hon. Member says is true, we have lost some of the discounts. I understand that some of those discounts are being looked at again. Since world oil prices started to come down, that 10-cent reduction equals something in the neighbourhood of 45 cents a gallon.

Mr. Foster: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is three o'clock.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ACCEPTABILITY OF PETITIONS PURSUANT TO FORMER S.O. 73

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been consultations among House Leaders and I think Your Honour will find a disposition to receive, by unanimous consent, and pass without debate, the following orders. The first is as follows:

That notwithstanding Standing Order 106, petitions signed before the implementation of the new Standing Orders on February 24, 1986, and clearly identified as such, may be filed with the Clerk of the House, provided:

That the said petitions be examined pursuant to practices and procedures and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 73 in effect on September 9, 1985;

That the petitions found in order by the Clerk of Petitions be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings and those petitions found out of order be returned to the Member filing the petitions;

That petitions be received pursuant to this Order no later than the last sitting day of June, 1986; and

That the Government not be required to table a response to any petition filed pursuant to this Order.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—CHANGE TO CONFORM WITH PROVISIONAL STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): The second order reads as follows:

That the entries of all orders and items on the Order Paper and Notices under "Private Members' Business" be changed to conform with the terms of the provisional Standing Orders in effect on February 24, 1986, and that the Clerk of the House be authorized to make such changes.

Mr. Speaker: Does the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) have the unanimous consent of the House to introduce his motions?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Employment Equity

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motions. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motions?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motions agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Monday, April 21, consideration of the motion of Miss MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration), that Bill C-62, an Act respecting employment equity, be read the third time and passed; and on the amendment (Ms. Copps) (p. 12465).

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to participate in this important debate at the third reading stage of the employment equity legislation known as Bill C-62. In effect, this Bill represents yet another broken promise of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney). Canadians will recall that throughout the 1984 election campaign the Prime Minister set out an ambitious program to implement full employment equity for all Canadians. I remind those Canadians who are watching the debate, and those who have been following it, of the words of the Prime Minister who said in August of 1984:

Our party will ensure that companies providing services to the federal Government hire increasing numbers of women to perform such services. When seeking Government business, these companies will be required to detail their action plans, timetables, and programs for attracting, training and advancing women within their operations—

The Prime Minister went on to say this:

We support the need for human resources planning within the federal bureaucracy, which includes goals and objectives to achieve parity for women, at all levels of Government operations, commensurate with their skills and expectations. Numerical goals are one of several goals required: training and retraining are others.

Canadians remember the promises made by the Prime Minister during the federal election campaign. Today, as we examine this legislation on employment equity, it is clear that those promises have been broken. In particular, the flaws in Bill C-62 are the promises which have been broken at the expense of groups in our society which have been historically disadvantaged when it comes to achieving equal access to labour market opportunities. In particular I speak of the disabled, of women, native people and visible minorities, all of whom had high hopes that the Tory Government would back up the rhetoric of the Prime Minister with concrete action.

That was not to be. Why is it that legislation such as effective employment equity legislation is so important? Time and time again we have had statistical studies, many of them referred to in the report of the Royal Commission on Equality and Employment, chaired so ably by Judge Rosalie Abella,