

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard-Anjou (Mr. Gagliano).

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) and it has to do with mobility. It has been said—

[English]

On the mobility question, especially in the construction industry in Quebec, we have quite a problem. I had a case in my riding where a young Canadian from British Columbia moved to Quebec. He had to follow his wife because she was transferred to Montreal. He is a pipeline welder and he found a job but unfortunately he could not get a permit to work. Can the Hon. Member comment on what Bill C-27 does concerning mobility rights throughout this country?

Mr. Redway: Certainly mobility rights are very significant and the Charter of Rights speaks to that issue. Regardless of the diversity, regardless of the fact that there are many different regions, this is one country. We all have different points of view and different perspectives based on our geographical location and perhaps our cultural origins, but at the same time it is one country and everyone, regardless of how proud they are of their own region or their own ethnic and cultural background, is enormously proud of the fact that they are Canadians. To me that means any Canadian should be able to work in any part of this country.

At the same time we should not only look at the question of working in different parts of the country, but the economic and commercial life of this country should also be open and equally available to all. Certainly that is what the Charter of Rights is all about and I hope we will not see this sort of thing in the future. I hope that from now on we will have a country where people can move from region to region to work, and where people can truly be proud to be Canadians in every part of the country.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the views of the Hon. Member about whether he feels this legislation is an adequate response by the Government to the obligation it has to review our laws and bring them into compliance with the Charter. At page 6 of the discussion paper put out by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) he makes an interesting concession. He says that Section 15 reinforces the responsibility that governments have to shape laws, policies and programs to the goal of equality. But then we have this pathetically short statute which deals mostly with questions of grammar and semantics and very little with rights.

Mr. Boyer: Read the rest of the sentence.

Mr. Kaplan: The rest of the sentence says that the Government alone cannot achieve equality.

Mr. Boyer: Right on.

Mr. Kaplan: That is the Government's opinion, but I am emphasizing the admission by the Government that it has the

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responsibility to shape laws, policies and programs to the goal of equality, as well as to show some leadership.

Is the Hon. Member satisfied with the leadership that is shown to other governments by this measly piece of legislation which the Government has put before us? Why does he not think that the Government had a responsibility to deal with all the other areas where it is so obvious that changes are required to bring laws into compliance with the Charter? Why is the buck being passed to a consultation process and a parliamentary committee when the duties of the Government are recognized so clearly in this sentence of this document?

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, the "measly little Bill" that the Hon. Member refers to is 111 pages long. While I have been here admittedly a short time, I cannot remember another Bill introduced in the House which was 111 pages long. That is not to say that the Bill contains all of the amendments and changes in legislation that the Hon. Member might like to see; but as I explained in my earlier remarks, this is only one of a number of initiatives the Government is taking and has taken in order to bring the laws of this country into line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

For instance, the Hon. Member well knows that Bill C-18 deals with the rights of citizens. He is a member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and knows full well that that is one of the issues being dealt with in that particular Bill. He knows as well, I am sure, because he was here in the House, that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) has announced that policy relating to the rights of women.

I referred to the impact of that particular policy and those new regulations, but one of the things I neglected to comment on was the fact that involved in that was putting in place a procedure whereby the federal Public Service and the Government are sitting down to bring forward a policy—hopefully we will have an interim report by the end of June—to provide for equal pay for work of equal value in the Public Service for women, minorities, the disabled and native groups. That to my mind is a great step forward and something I am sure the Hon. Member supports and wants to see.

What disturbs me, of course, is that the Hon. Member and the Government he was part of had a long, long time to bring forward legislation of that sort. They had 16 years rather than six months to do it in. For some reason the Hon. Member and the former Government did not do that. Now, for an unexplained reason, he is being highly critical of the initiatives of our Government in those respects. I hope the Hon. Member will look at these things and give credit where credit is due. We tried to do that in the past whenever his Government brought forward good initiatives. I am sure the Hon. Member will do the same for us.

● (1230)

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, April 17, 1982 was certainly a landmark date in terms of the proclamation of the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Toward that