

men and women and boys and girls, and girls under 14 do need this kind of protection. The Badgley report pointed that out when it was published last August.

It is absolutely outrageous to see this totally arbitrary notion of equality. Yet when we come to the real problems that women are actually suffering, the real inequalities, these people are not there protesting or coming up with constructive alternatives. They are quite complacent about all the economic problems, such as women earning only half the income that men do, the fact that they have very little economic independence. They do not address any of the issues of women's pensions, women as homemakers being excluded from the Canada Pension Plan which results in their being poor in their old age because they do not have adequate means of support.

All these issues have been brought before the House. We have been lobbying year after year. But they have only been looked at as a matter of principle—whether we should be allowing women equal pensions; this is a matter to be discussed. Well, it is time we stopped discussing these matters. It is time that the Government took a principled stand and brought in legislation on all these issues.

Canadian women will, of course, continue to lobby on these issues. They are not going to quit. But I think it is very unfortunate that they have again to come before a committee to plead their case for equality. I remember the time I was President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women lobbying for equality at the time of the Charter fight. We won that fight. We hoped the Charter would really mean something, that it would have some guts to it and that women would not have to continue to go to court and again lobby time after time after time. But the Government is obviously very reluctant to bring in concrete measures.

The Minister of Justice's remarks yesterday in the House were shameful. And his approval of equality is as reluctant as it could be consistent with his position as Minister of Justice. It is very clear that women are going to get justice and equality in only the smallest possible measure. It probably means that women are going to have to go to the courts to fight for equality on measures which should have been brought in by way of legislation. A responsible Government would have legislated and not forced women to take the trouble, time and effort to plead their case in court. The fight will continue on these issues, I assure you of that, Mr. Speaker. I only regret that the Government is not leading the way with constructive, useful and fair legislation for Canadian women.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Questions and comments? Resuming debate.

**Mr. Roger Clinch (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, as this is the first opportunity I have had to speak on a Bill in this House of Commons, may I seek the indulgence of the Chair for a few moments to talk a bit about the county I represent, Gloucester in northeastern New Brunswick.

*Statute Law Amendment Act*

[*Translation*]

If we were to look for a region in Canada that reflects the Canadian mosaic, the riding of Gloucester would do that perfectly, Mr. Speaker. Everyone has heard of the Acadian peninsula, located in the heart of the riding. Towns and villages such as Caraquet, Shippegan, Tracadie and Lamèque depend mainly on the sea as their source of income, and the people in these communities are among the hardest working individuals I have ever met, Mr. Speaker.

● (1120)

[*English*]

In the summer the whole region is a paradise for tourists.

[*Translation*]

The Village acadien and the Caraquet Acadian Festival are very well known, as well as the Centre marin and the Shippegan Fisheries Festival.

[*English*]

In the region of the urban centre of Bathurst the hospitality and the festival during the summer months which reflects that hospitality will attract thousands of tourists who can visit some of the finest beaches on the East Coast of Canada. Along the coast of the beautiful Bay of Chaleur, nestled between the Gaspé Peninsula and the Town of Grande Anse, are the small coastal localities which include Clifton, Stonehaven, Janeville, New Bandon and Salmon Beach. The urban centre of the riding is Bathurst, the city in which I was born, and I am very proud to say my family still lives there. Bathurst is the economic centre of the northeast of New Brunswick. The major private employer in the riding is Noranda whose Brunswick mine is one of the largest lead-zinc deposits in the world.

[*Translation*]

The forestry industry also plays a very important role in the region's economy, thanks to Consolidated Bathurst Limited, which has one of its operations in Bathurst.

[*English*]

Fishing, mining, forestry and the peat industry are the natural resources which initiate much of the economic stability of Gloucester. However, the greatest of its natural resources is its people. With both founding groups, Anglophone and Francophone, living harmoniously, Mr. Speaker, we can truly say that Gloucester county is an example to New Brunswickers and all of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent in this House all groups and individuals in the riding of Gloucester. I greatly appreciate their support and confidence, and I want to give them the assurance that throughout my term as a Member of Parliament, their needs will always be uppermost in my mind.

[*English*]

Bill C-27, which provides for amendments to over 50 statutes to ensure Charter consistency, results from an extensive review of federal laws carried out by the Department of