

**Mr. Cassidy:** On a question or comment, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Langdon:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege—

[Translation]

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Madam Speaker—

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I will hear the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) first. I will then hear the question of privilege of the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). The Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques has the floor.

[Translation]

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Madam Speaker, my point of order is more serious. The Hon. Member for Argenteuil—Papineau (Mrs. Bourgault), who should be the next to speak, is ready to rise. However, since there are only about two minutes left before 5 o'clock, could we have the consent of the House to call it 5 o'clock so that her speech will not be interrupted and she will not have to speak two minutes now and go on later?

I think that all Hon. Members would agree to that.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I must hear the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor first. I will then come back to the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques.

**Mr. Langdon:** Madam Speaker, if I am not mistaken, questions of privilege are to take precedence over points of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Chair had already recognized the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques. The Chair has recognized and is now hearing the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor. If he has a question of privilege, then I will gladly listen to it.

**Mr. Langdon:** Madam Speaker, it seems to me that the last intervention has raised a level of personal attack which is best left outside the House. It seems to me that if we are to continue to follow this course then the privilege of Members of this House will be very badly abused in the future.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Langdon:** If that is to be the case, then, first, I want to express my regrets. Second, I wish to appeal to the Hon. Member to withdraw the comments which he has made.

● (1700)

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I will tell the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) that the Chair does not think that this is a question of privilege. Nevertheless, I completely agree with the Hon. Member that this was not

### *Equality Rights*

the type of language that should be used in the House, and it did not relate at all to the Bill that was being debated. At times, Hon. Members want to show that they have a sense of humour and they want to have fun. Unfortunately, they sometimes hurt other people's feelings. I am sure that this is not what was meant.

It being 5 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS

[English]

### EQUALITY RIGHTS

#### PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should implement the recommendations of the sub-committee on Equality Rights of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs of the First Session of the Thirty-third Parliament:

(1) That the *Canadian Human Rights Act* be amended to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination to the other grounds, which are race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, marital status, family status, disability, and conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted.

(2) That the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP bring their employment practices into conformity with the *Canadian Human Rights Act* as amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

(3) That the federal government security clearance guidelines covering employees and contractors not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

(4) That the *Criminal Code* be amended to ensure that the minimum age or ages at which private consensual sexual activity is lawful be made uniform without distinction based on sexual orientation.

He said: Madam Speaker, on October 25, 1985, the special committee of the House on Equality Rights unanimously recommended to the Government that change to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Canada was long overdue.

[Translation]

The Committee had this to say: "We were shocked by a number of the experiences of unfair treatment related to us by homosexuals in different parts of the country. We heard about the harassment of and violence committed against homosexuals. We were told in graphic detail about physical abuse and psychological oppression suffered by homosexuals. In several cities, private social clubs serving a homosexual clientele were damaged and the members harassed. Hate propaganda directed at homosexuals has been found in some parts of Canada. We were told of the severe employment and housing problems suffered by homosexuals." Indeed, many of the individuals who appeared before us expressed the fear that their participation would jeopardize their jobs.