

reference. We have now had the opportunity of discussing that among the Parties and I think you would find a disposition at this time to proceed to motions in order to have this motion brought forward by unanimous consent and passed without debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to allow the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) to proceed to motions?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON WHEAT PRICING

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, to ensure that I have the correct wording, I will read the motion, and I think you will find a disposition to pass it without debate. It reads:

That further to the order made on Friday, December 13, 1985 and notwithstanding Standing Order 94(1), a special committee be appointed to act as a Parliamentary Task Force to examine the pricing of domestic wheat and its products from the farm gate through to the retail market-place, in order to provide wheat producers with higher returns for the sale of wheat for human consumption, while avoiding undue hardship to processors, consumers and other wheat users, and to examine parity pricing—

Those words were added at the request of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker. The order continues:

That the Committee be composed of seven members;

That the Committee have all the powers granted to Standing Committees pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 96(1);

That the Committee or members of the Committee be empowered to adjourn or travel to Montreal, Toronto, Saskatoon and Edmonton if the Committee deems necessary, and that if it deems fit the required staff accompany the Committee or members thereof, as the case may be; and

That the Striking Committee be empowered to consider and report on the Membership and that this report be deemed adopted when tabled in the House;

That the Committee report, on the pricing of domestic wheat, not later than Friday, May 9, 1986.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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[Translation]

EQUALITY RIGHTS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Robinson:

That the First Report of the Subcommittee on Equality Rights of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, presented to the House on Friday, October 25, 1985, be concurred in.

Motions

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take part in today's debate on the measures proposed by the Government to promote equality within Canadian society.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms acknowledges equality rights and bans discrimination. This major amendment to the Canadian Constitution enables citizens to take court action. Well, it is more effective and indeed more equitable not to force people who are victims of discrimination to hire lawyers, file a complaint or something else, and appear before the courts. The Government is dutybound to remove discriminatory legislative provisions and take the measures required to ensure equality.

The process is often time-consuming. A subcommittee was struck to study the question and it recommended a number of legislative amendments. The Government is now responding, favourably in most cases. It endorses 46 report recommendations and does not agree on ten others. Generally speaking, the Government more readily accepts the measures where it is only a question of removing barriers. When it comes to more concrete and more costly measures, the Government would rather discuss, study or consider instead of taking action.

[English]

I would like to discuss some of the particular measures in the report *Equality for All*, and the Government's response to it. I will begin with the abolition of mandatory retirement in the federal sector, the issue which has been the most discussed and the most appreciated. The Government agrees with the recommendation of the committee to abolish mandatory retirement and will work to ensure that there is no adverse impact on women, youth, and minorities. One could applaud the first part of this measure, but I must be more critical about the lack of action to ensure that there is no adverse impact.

There has been no action with regard to provisions for flexible retirement to allow those who wish to retire early to do so. Obviously, that is a key factor if jobs are going to be available to young people and to women re-entering the labour force. If people are going to be able to stay longer, it is very important that those who want to leave early have adequate pensions to enable them to do so.

This will require changes in the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, and federal and provincial Ministers have agreed in principle to prorating the Canada and Quebec Pensions Plans for retirement down to the age of 60 and up to the age of 70. We welcome that news. However, until better pensions are paid, there will not be adequate inducement to early retirement. The adequacy of pensions must be a real consideration. A recommendation by the labour movement to double the level of benefits in the Canada and Quebec Pensions Plans has not been acted on.

Continuing in the area of pensions, a recommendation was made to end the provision of Canada Pension Plan benefits when the surviving spouse remarries. This is, of course, a provision which we have had for a long time which causes terrible hardship to couples. Couples are forced to live together