

toward the development of democracy within the Bands. Without the participation of native women, this so-called democracy is an illusion.

• (1805)

[English]

Of course there will be problems. We have to admit that there will be problems with respect to re-integrating women, but I think those problems have been exaggerated. Many of the women are presently living on reserves. It is not a question of bringing in new people, they are there now. In Yukon and the Northwest Territories there are no reserves. It is a question of women living in their communities, and having a vote. If it is a community council, such as in Old Crow, for example, they have it already. But they are living at the edge of the community; they are not being fully integrated into it. They are there now. Very often they speak the language and they are committed to native culture. They would be valuable members of their bands and of their councils. Many of the problems that native people have with environmental pollution, land claims, and the very high over-representation of native people in our jails and prisons, are the problems which should be addressed. Failure to solve this question of equality indicates that people are not working on the problem. It is important for native men and women to work together to solve these and other problems.

[Translation]

**Mr. René Gingras (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) raised the question of the equality of Indian women under the Canadian Charter of Rights, and amendments to the Indian Act.

Hon. Members will recall the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) answered that the Charter would prevail over the Indian Act. It would therefore simply be a matter of waiting for Section 15(1) of the Charter to come into force, which in effect would supersede certain sections of the Act, such as Section 12(1)(b), which is at variance with the Constitution.

However, some discriminatory sections in the Act that are involved in the amendment process lay down the criteria for entitlement to Indian status. After April 17, 1985, Indian women will no longer lose their status under Section 12(1)(b). However, the sections of the Act dealing with the registration of children will have to be amended to provide for the registration of children of Indian women as well as of Indian men. Therefore, although equality is guaranteed to all women under Section 15(1) and Section 28 of the Canadian Charter of Rights, it is imperative that the Indian Act be amended as soon as possible.

As the Prime Minister has also pointed out, the reinstatement of Indians raises problems. Hopefully, these problems will soon be resolved.

### Adjournment Debate

In answer to the other question put by the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to point out that 16 members of the Native Women's Association of Canada attended the Conference of the Assembly of First Nations over the weekend, which provided \$10,000 to ensure the participation of the Association of Native Women. The Native Citizen's Directorate of the Secretary of State is ready to meet with the Executive Council of the Native Women's Association of Canada to discuss further funding requirements.

[English]

EMPLOYMENT (A) BRITISH COLUMBIA STATISTICS. (B) RAILWAY UPGRADING—BENEFITS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Mr. Speaker, about a year ago this House passed a Bill that was supposed to create new employment opportunities for Canada, and particularly for the West. That Bill was the Crow legislation. The Government, during the course of the debate, promised enormous industrial benefits that would accrue to Canada as a result of that particular legislation. I recall estimates that as many as 400,000 jobs would be created if the House passed the Bill. A year has now passed. While the West is not impatient with the so-called results of the Bill, we are concerned with respect to the benefits that that legislation was supposed to create for Canada and that the West will get its fair share of those benefits.

• (1810)

We want to see some signal that the Government is going to pay proper attention to British Columbia, in particular—and that is my concern—when it sets out the parameters of the advantages which that Bill is supposed to provide for the west. That is why I asked the Minister some ten days ago how the Government was going to handle it specifically. I quote part of my question which is found in *Hansard* on May 11, 1984 at page 3639:

The Government promised that as a result of the Crow legislation there would be thousands of jobs created across Canada and literally millions, if not billions of dollars invested. Presumably those jobs would accrue to the areas which would be affected by the Crow legislation.

I then went on to ask the Minister how western Canada, particularly British Columbia, was going to benefit.

I am concerned, Sir, but not in a confrontational way. I really was not badgering the Minister. I simply wanted some information, because there seems to be a paucity of information since that legislation was passed. I understand there have been seminars conducted in Alberta. I believe there may have even been a seminar conducted in Vancouver, British Columbia. Nevertheless, there seems to be a real paucity of information going out to the companies which would supposedly benefit most from that particular legislation.

I am concerned, Sir, that not only subsidiaries of CPR, and companies which have a linkage with the Canadian National Railways, have the benefit of this legislation, because there are scores of small companies throughout British Columbia which