

Committee Reports

colleague or in any great recognition of what the Government has done.

There is a great desire to make much of the reporting aspect and it would be very hard to top the Minister's statement this morning as a celebration of what reporting might achieve. We will learn what are the actual shortcomings and inequities and that this information will be rapidly digested and made available.

The Minister will make a statement and the reports will be made available throughout the country for people to buy. I only ask in passing how much these reports will cost lobby groups and those who wish to maintain the pressure. I hope the price will be quite low and that the information will be made available as quickly as possible so there will be no long delays that will enable employers to say that reports on their lack of progress toward equality are out of date. If there is too long a delay it will be too easy for employers to say that their circumstances have changed dramatically. There must be speedy action and abundant publicity about these reports to realize the potential the Minister has expressed about them.

There must be stronger provisions in the way of requirements on employers to take action. The Minister asserts that employers will take this action, but I am tempted to say this statement is in the long-standing Liberal tradition that by revealing the shortcomings of people they are motivated to correct them. Liberals have believed in that practice for too long, and it is distressing to see Conservatives practising the same short-sighted, indeed blind policy. People very often do not want to make a change unless they are compelled to do so.

Action plans must be required of employers so that they can stipulate the goals and targets they wish to achieve. Employers should be required to present their action plans to the agency that would actively monitor them to ensure that employment equity is actually achieved, as the Act claims it will do. Only if those steps are taken will those in the target groups and Canadians generally be sure that we will have more fairness in employment.

Another important aspect to consider is that the Bill is limited in its focus on Crown corporations and private enterprise under federal regulation. The Government has managed to keep itself clear of obligations to report and that refusal to take this responsibility is particularly regrettable. I believe employers who are facing these demands ought to be able to look to the federal Government to provide an example by revealing the shortcomings in employment in the federal Government and its institutions and then indicating targets and deadlines by which the situation concerning employment equity will be corrected.

I have seen figures for various groups setting limited goals and the shortcomings in information are quite obvious for a number of them. The statistics for the current situation in federal institutions are simply not available. The Treasury Board carried out a voluntary census among the various federal institutions. We cannot be sure how close those

statistics came to revealing the true situation, but the need to be quite clear about the situation for various groups leads me to call on the Government this morning to practice the same principles internally.

Surely the Treasury Board can act on these matters and take to itself the obligation to work under the employment equity Bill and ensure that leadership is being given to employers in the federal institutions.

I suggested during third reading debate a couple of years ago that it would be five years after a report before a government would be ready to take action. The next election may change this because we New Democrats would love to have the opportunity to make real progress toward employment equity. However, there is the possibility that years may pass before there is stronger legislation to make the kind of real progress to achieve employment equity that the Minister is claiming this morning will be the result of the present rather weak Bill.

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[Translation]

STRIKING COMMITTEE**PRESENTATION OF SIXTY-SECOND REPORT**

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the Sixty-second Report of the Striking Committee.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

PETITIONS**PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN**

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, this petition is from residents of 759 Victoria Park Avenue in the constituency of Scarborough West who avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance common to them, in the certain assurance that this honourable House will provide a remedy.

The petitioners humbly sheweth that whereas the distinguished Justices of the Supreme Court have left Canadians without any law restricting abortions and nothing in the Supreme Court decision has established abortion as a right, and human life is a continuum from the moment of conception to the moment of death, these petitioners pray and call upon Parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of the unborn from conception and at all stages of development, with the exception of those cases where an abortion is performed to save the life of the mother.