

*Government Orders*

the many times behind the curtains and in committees positive, constructive comments are made.

Sometimes I think we do it to ourselves by having a debate and only talking about the negatives. I cannot imagine any company with 295 employees that would not have a couple of bad apples that everyone might be ashamed and embarrassed of. Yet there are many here who come in on a Monday, do their committee work, go home on a Thursday, and when they get back to their riding their constituents say: "We do not hear from you".

Many of us come here with no rules given to us. I came and I did not know the rules but I thought I would behave like a gentleman and other people would behave like ladies. Obviously I am a little bit naive.

I guess that is the point I would like to make to the member. We are quite right in pointing out that we do have warts, but I think it is also equally important to let the citizens of the country know that most of the time this is a place of professionalism and that most of the time all of us are proud to be part of that institution. I would just like her to comment on that.

**Ms. Black:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for his comments and his question.

Yes, a lot of positive things do happen in the House of Commons. You never take off your partisan cloak entirely but when discussing issues that you want to make progress on, that perhaps do not have the highly partisan nature that a lot of the debate has here, there can be co-operation. For example, I introduced a private member's bill in the House of Commons. I then worked to get the support of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women and the Liberal critic. We worked together to get the support of other members of the House of Commons, and that bill went through. It has now gone through the Senate and is only awaiting Royal Assent at this point. We do work together at times and we should highlight that perhaps more often.

Unfortunately our friends in the media do not see that kind of work as newsworthy or headline grabbing as the other things that do hit the news.

The member mentioned that I highlighted two recent incidents that have hit the media in a big way. I could give him and the Chair many more incidents that have happened in this place, in committee and other places in the House of Commons. I did not want to do that. I did not want to raise the level of debate on those two issues, but believe me there are many more incidents that I could document.

You mentioned corporations earlier. Many corporations are now moving toward establishing a policy on personal harassment, establishing a policy on sexual harassment, a policy that is well written, publicized heavily throughout the corporation to its employees and management people, with a complaint mechanism and a human rights officer to whom those complaints can be taken. Perhaps that is the direction that this House should move in.

When I am insulted on a sexist basis around here I have a lot more equality, because I am a member of Parliament, than many of the female employees in the House of Commons working for members of Parliament. We should all be looking at this in broad terms to see how we can show leadership to Canadians on these issues.

**Mr. Ken James (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I thank you and the House for the opportunity to speak to this motion.

This motion, as put forward by the government, makes no exclusions. It is a motion that equally affects all of us in this House. I think it is important that we reflect upon that. It asks us to show respect for one another. It asks us also to do that in the mood of respecting the differences we have and the different regions and the different constituencies we all represent in this House of Commons. I think that is important because we will stand and debate and we will have differences of opinion. We on this side do not want the opposition to be muzzled. We want ideas and approaches to be put forward. We all must do it in a matter that is somewhat different than the way this place has been operating.

• (1350)

Members have been mentioned today and members have made comments in this House. Good, hard working, diligent, intelligent members of Parliament have said things and made certain allegations that I do not