

has a policy of hiring young, indigenous people. But I think there should be far more of these hirings, even if we have to lower the educational requirements. I say this, Mr. Speaker, because we constantly see cases where kids have gone back to college without having to surmount the prerequisite academic hurdles that most of us were required to surmount, and they have done very well. I think we will find that our native peoples will do very well in this field.

I think it is time we started discriminating in favour of our native peoples. For hundreds of years we have discriminated against them. I think that in this country we are becoming more enlightened: we recognize that there are minorities. In the case of Francophones who have been underrepresented in the federal public service, the government has introduced a policy which will try to correct this situation. My party and I support these programs.

I should like to see young, native males and females enter occupations for which I think they would be well suited. For instance, they could embark upon all kinds of tourist-oriented occupations. At present many tourist kiosks across the country employ high school students in the summer. In British Columbia we employ them as tourist guides on the ferries of Mr. Bennett's "navy". Why could not some of these positions be held open for native peoples? I do not think there are enough native people in such positions.

I should like to see far more attention paid to providing native peoples with an opportunity to enter the attractive and, let us say, "status" positions—because they have been excluded from them in the past. I hope there will be more job opportunities for them in fields in which they can make a worthwhile contribution. Let me emphasize that I do not think they should be singled out and become part of the advertising or promotional campaign of any company. Nevertheless, I think that if given a chance to do a job they will be proud of, they will work hard and acquit themselves admirably.

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond this evening to the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose), and in so doing to express without reservation the concurrence of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) and, I am sure, the entire government in promoting employment policies that are non-discriminatory.

We are discussing a subject with regard to which I can only say that everything possible is being done to ensure that no person or group of persons is discriminated against in this country. Sometimes in carrying out policies problems can arise with personalities, but action always is taken promptly to rectify any unfair or unjust practices.

In the case of Air Canada, their policy on hiring stewardesses is well known. Ethnic origin is not a determining factor. There are certain educational qualifications, certain physical qualifications and in some cases language requirements which must be met by an applicant. Provided these qualifications are satisfied, selection is on the

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion
basis of merit without regard to any question of racial background.

In extending these assurances to the hon. member I add that if he has any additional suggestions in mind which would benefit either Air Canada or the Department of Transport, I would be only too pleased to take them up with the appropriate authorities. Air Canada officials will be appearing before the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications in several weeks' time and the hon. member will have plenty of opportunity to ask detailed questions at this forum.

STATUS OF WOMEN—DESIGNATION OF MINISTER TO
STUDY COMMISSION REPORT

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, this seems to be ladies' night. A month ago I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) if, in view of the great interest being shown by women's organizations across the country, he could name the date when someone in the cabinet would be designated to be in charge of the report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, and its implementation. Agile as usual, the Prime Minister replied that he was surprised at my suggestion that we downgrade the report to the level of one minister, adding:

I say the full cabinet is concerned with it.

Having learned from my childhood that what is everybody's business is nobody's business, I was not impressed with this reply, particularly when I recalled what the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) said earlier. Cornered some time ago by newsmen and asked which minister would most likely be chosen, he laughed and said he did not know if any of them would be keen to take on the job.

I was impressed, however, when the Prime Minister made the status of women the subject of his address to the Liberal party's fund raising dinner in Toronto on March 3. He indicated that progress toward equality had been made by women since 1912, when Sir Rodmond Roblin, then Premier of Manitoba, complained that he was "opposed by all the short-haired women and all the long-haired men in the province". The Prime Minister could have added that when the women of Manitoba sent a delegation to him to ask for the vote, he called them "hyenas in petticoats". We have come a long way since then, but there is still a long way to go before women can reach true equality with men in the work place, the home, the legislative halls and the community.

The Prime Minister has taken certain, very useful first steps by establishing an interdepartmental committee to examine the recommendations of the status of women report and a co-ordinator who is a very able woman. However, in my opinion that is not enough. If the report is being taken seriously by the government, and if its findings are to be given high legislative priority, there must be someone at cabinet level to push them and work for their implementation. Hints have been made at cabinet level that something of that kind may be forthcoming. Speaking in the debate on the status of women