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woman appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and the first ever federal-provincial conference of Ministers responsible for the status of women. We saw significant changes to the laws with regard to sexual assault, and increased awareness and debate on wife battering, divorce, pensions, sexual stereotyping in media, pornography, micro-technology, and part-time work.

• (1410)

I would like to pay tribute on this International Women's Day to all Canadian women. Especially I would like to pay tribute to one Canadian woman who has been so instrumental in furthering women's rights, the retiring Senator Florence Bird. Women owe Senator Bird a great debt for her pioneering work as Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and for her continuing efforts toward the principle of equality.

It is my concern, however, that much of the progress in the past year has been as a result of consultation and action on the part of this Liberal Government, and so much of what needs to be done lies within the domain of the Provinces. For instance, just yesterday the Conservative Government in Saskatchewan announced the abolition of the women's bureau in their Labour Department. Can this be the same political party that federally is trying so hard to con Canadian women into thinking they are concerned about them? I ask women—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE

MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON SIZE OF GOVERNMENT DEFICIT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I could not help but note the remarks of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) over the weekend in which he proposed to play the federal deficit or the people of Canada—it was not absolutely clear which—like an accordion.

When it comes to his musical ability, methinks the Minister is much too modest. He is a veritable one-man band. Not only is there his one-way accordion, which always expands but never has to contract in order to be able to expand again, but there is also the bagpipes at which the Minister is adept. He blows and blows to keep the bag full of hot air, and hopes the rest of us will be impressed with his fingering. Of course there is his harp, which makes wonderful music as long as we listen to it with our eyes closed. It is only if we open them suddenly that we notice that the strings are being pulled by former Members of the Liberal Cabinet.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues on International Women's Day to urge the Government to implement two key recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission of particular concern to women. First, the Canadian Human Rights Act should be amended to clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or childbirth. As well, the Act should make very clear that sexual harassment, a serious and widespread problem in the workplace, will not be tolerated. Canadian women would thus be ensured that unfavourable treatment resulting from a refusal of sexual attentions, as well as the unwanted and unsought reception of sexual advances, would be prohibited under the Act.

While the recently tabled amendments to the Act did include these long overdue changes, other provisions in that Bill, in particular the offensive reference in proposed Section 14(2) to the possibility that a person may "behave or is likely to behave in an unduly disruptive manner unacceptable in the individual's environment" have jeopardized passage of the Bill.

It is the strong and unanimous view of representatives of the disabled community as well as national women's groups and many others that this Section opens a dangerous loophole which allows people's attitudes and beliefs toward minority groups and women to be legitimized as bona fide job requirements rather than constituting discrimination. While Clauses 9(3) and 25 remain problems, if the Government removes this dangerous Clause 14(2), we will support speedy passage of the Bill to extend the rights of the physically and mentally disabled and ensure that women are protected from discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy, child birth, and sexual harassment.

Madam Speaker: Order.

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[Translation]

STATUS OF WOMEN

PROPOSED APPLICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON INDIAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Montreal-Mercier): Madam Speaker, International Women's Day is dedicated to women's struggle for equality throughout the world. It is a day of hope, on which one of the main objectives being promoted is to achieve greater social justice. Against this background, Madam Speaker, I invite my Opposition colleagues to join the Government's team in implementing the report submitted to the House by the Committee on Indian Women's Rights and to proceed forthwith to amend the Indian Act by restoring all their rights as soon as possible to Indian women by amending Section 12.1(b), thus restoring their fundamental rights to Indian women and their descendants.