

Government Orders

rounding the charge of sexual harassment within the Armed Forces, became public.

It was not even she who made those details public, yet this person is suffering the indignity of a court-martial. In the initial phase of this whole thing it is not even she who is to blame. As with so many of these cases, whether it is sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, colour or religion, the victim is the one who suffers and the perpetrators get away scot-free and often are found to have been promoted or transferred to more favourable jobs, or perhaps more favourable geographic locations within the federal Public Service.

I commend the member for having brought forward this excellent amendment to Bill C-26. I cannot for the life of me understand why on earth the government would not take cognizance of the excellent recommendation within this amendment, other than to conclude that it does not really have the interests of its employees as the prime motive for making these changes.

I guess we really must come back to a reference that was made earlier today as well and conclude that it is a desire to preserve the old boy's network. I guess that is the best description of it, because sure as heck they would not want any uppity women or any uppity people of another race or colour or religion to gain some kind of an advantage within the elite of our wonderful Public Service.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this matter. I trust the government will take this recommendation to heart and adopt it as its own.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I will recognize the hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam in a second.

I just wanted to let the House know that in keeping with tradition, as of four o'clock the Speaker will be delighted to receive members in Room 216, as is the habit of the Speaker every year on the last day before we all go home for the summer.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, while some may be visiting the Speaker's

offices, others of us will be here labouring in the House, including you.

I rise in support of the amendments put forward, Motions Nos. 9, 11 and 13. When we talk about these motions I think it is important to put them in the context of the concept put forward by PS 2000, the bump that referred to PS 2000 as being very, very progressive and forward thinking and even the title, Public Service 2000, taking us into the next century.

• (1600)

Having sat along with other members of this House for weeks on end listening to the Public Service justify Bill C-26, I am sad to report to the House that we are talking about dragging the Public Service, kicking and screaming, into the last century.

This bill is not a progressive piece of legislation. It is drafted by people who 30 years ago in their early days in the Public Service might have had a vision, but that vision has not moved forward in the last 30 years. Now their 30-year old vision is being presented before this House, wrapped up and packaged as something to take us into the next century.

The best the opposition can do with this legislation at this time—we can hope that maybe there will be an election call in the fall and it will not in fact pass in the House—is support amendments that would at the very least bring this legislation a little closer to 1992.

Motion No. 9 adds a provision that the commission shall investigate complaints of personal or sexual harassment, report its findings and corrective action taken to the worker involved. It is important we think about the fact that without this amendment we were in a situation where the commission may investigate complaints but in fact could have abrogated its responsibility and given the responsibility to department heads.

Let us think about this. We looked at the bill. We looked at the reality of the work place. We had the Public Service Commission telling us that employers in the public sector are good people and would never ever harass someone and would never ever certainly be involved in sexual harassment. It essentially said: "Trust