

share the Minister's commitment to very fundamental change in the area of divorce law. We hope that this will be an early initiative. We will also look at the whole question of enforcement of maintenance orders.

In addition, the Criminal Code must be overhauled. There are many areas in which this change is long overdue. I certainly pledge my co-operation and that of my Party in moving toward progressive changes to the Criminal Code. The community has very serious concerns about other issues on which the Minister has indicated the Government will be taking action, such as the question of soliciting and pornography. I would caution the Minister to proceed with great care, particularly in the area of soliciting, because I believe we must be aware of the fact that a simplistic knee-jerk response by amending the Criminal Code and in many cases further victimizing women who are already victims would be a most unwise policy. We must look very carefully at the causes of prostitution, whether they be economic or social, while also recognizing the interest of the community in having a safe environment in which people are not harassed and in which women are not harassed by potential clients.

It is also important for the Government to examine and implement the important recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission for changes to human rights legislation. These recommendations have sat idle for far too long. Year after year the Liberal Government refused to listen to the recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission to expand protection of minorities in this country to include sexual orientation and political belief, for example, as prohibited grounds of discrimination. I hope this Government will be prepared to move where the previous Government stood silent.

Reference has also been made to the Badgley Commission. I was certainly disappointed to note the silence in the Speech from the Throne on the very important recommendations of that commission. The commission documented, in effect, a national crisis—the serious and widespread problem of sexual abuse of children. Although there was no reference to that question in the Speech from the Throne, I hope the Government would be prepared to move very early, for example, in establishing the office of Commissioner reporting directly to the Prime Minister, as was recommended by the Badgley Commission.

● (1150)

As well, we have seen evidence of another great inequity in our law. It was clearly documented in the courts of Toronto over the last few days and weeks. I am referring to the inequity in Canada's laws with respect to abortion. Certainly I believe it is essential to recognize that the evidence produced in the courtroom in Toronto, evidence indicating that many Canadian women are denied access to safe therapeutic abortions, particularly poor women and women in rural areas, cries out for response by this Parliament. We must not only look at a repeal of those provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion and recognize that this is fundamentally a decision

### *Courts Amendment Act*

which must be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor. At the same time we must look at far greater resources for prevention, resources in the areas of sex education, birth control and further research on safe and effective birth control methods.

Reference has been made to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I remind Hon. Members of the House that this Charter was fought by Members of the Tory caucus. It contains an override provision which can effectively nullify the most basic rights contained in that Charter. At the time that Section 15 on equality rights comes into effect, certainly we will be seeking the assurance of the Government that it will in fact bring all federal legislation, as well as other areas within federal jurisdiction, into conformity with those provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

On the legislation before the House, certainly we support the Bill. I note that the enlightened administration in the Province of Manitoba is moving forward to consolidate the courts. I hope the Government will be prepared to take its future direction on the administration of justice from that government, which has certainly made a number of very progressive changes in the field of judicial reform and law reform.

We support this Bill. I certainly look forward to co-operating with the Government in areas where legislative change is overdue and to vigorously resisting the moves of the dinosaur wing in the Conservative Party which would take legislative change and law reform backward in the country.

**Mr. Stackhouse:** Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Member permit a question?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** There are no questions after the first three speakers today. However, it can be done by unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Stackhouse:** In view of there being in excess of 60,000 abortions per year, why does the Hon. Member think the present law provides an inadequate opportunity to the women of Canada seeking abortions?

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, I invite the Hon. Member to review the evidence presented to the court in Toronto and to review the report of the Badgley Commission which contained very clear and eloquent evidence and documentation of the fact that access to safe therapeutic abortion is not a reality for thousands of Canadian women. I would be pleased to provide that material to the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to participate in this debate until the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) mentioned dinosaurs. It happens that dinosaurs are in my riding. There are hundreds of them under the hills there. They are there because they were unable to adjust to changing conditions. I suggest that will be the same case with the New Democratic Party. It refuses to adjust to