

*Introduction of Bills***CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, CANADA LABOUR CODE, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT ACT**

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-229, an Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act, the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Employment Act (whistleblowing).

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Vankoughnet: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to provide appropriate sanctions against retaliatory discharges by public sector employers of employees who report or "blow the whistle" on serious misconduct of their employers. In protecting employees acting in good faith, this Bill would recognize that there are times when it is in the public interest to encourage employee whistleblowing, particularly when the public health and safety are at issue.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

• (1110)

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps as a note of information the Chair might make it clear to the House that it is the obligation of the Chair first to announce that leave to introduce a Bill has been prayed for. When that has been completed and agreed, an Hon. Member has an opportunity to make a short statement and then we follow on. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso (Mr. O'Neil) will be heard in just a moment.

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CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-230, an Act to amend the Criminal Code.

Some Hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for the presence of legal counsel for unborn children at a meeting of therapeutic abortion committees in hospitals across the country.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES POLITICAL RIGHTS ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-231, an Act to provide for the political rights of public employees.

Some Hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is in fulfillment of a promise I made in the 1984 election. It also seeks to fulfil a promise made by the Government at the same time. It would ensure that in addition to the existing rights to vote and to make financial contributions to a political party, the people working for the Public Service of Canada and for Crown corporations would also be guaranteed the right to support actively a political party or candidate, to solicit or collect funds for a political party or candidate, to be a member of a political party and to exercise the usual rights and privileges thereof and to express views or to engage in activities in relation to matters that form part of the platform of a political party or in relation to other issues of public interest.

This Bill is designed to take away the shackles on political activity by public servants. In order to maintain the neutrality of the Public Service, however, these rights would not extend to deputy ministers or senior managers in the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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POINT OF ORDER

AGRICULTURE—GOVERNMENT FUNDING—CORRECTION TO ANSWER

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to correct what may have been a false impression that