

The Liberals have lost all hope of regaining power in the west because they have ignored the problems of the west for too long. Today, they are continuing to ignore the problems in western Canada but they are also ignoring the problems of eastern areas, of native people and of women. The Liberals use token gestures to get support from the various groups at election time and to prove that they have a progressive image. But when we get right down to it, whether, for example, it is in the Treasury Board which talks about giving rights to women, or somewhere else, nothing happens when it comes to affirmative action within the various departments of government.

● (2140)

An hon. Member: All talk!

Mr. Murphy: It is all talk. What happens, of course, is that time after time employees of the government have had to drag their employer through the courts and through the human rights tribunals to enforce the laws of Canada. The worst employer in this country is the Government of Canada. If a private corporation which came under federal legislation were ignoring the human rights code it would be prosecuted by the federal government, instead of the administration being the defender and dragged through the courts.

The other day during the budget debate the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) said that one of the reasons he was moving to provide benefits for part-time employees was so that women could have the benefit of a home life and a job. Right now there is a translators' strike, the main outstanding issue of which is paid maternity leave. We cannot believe the government. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy), who is responsible for the status of women speaks of affirmative action programs within the government. What has the Liberal government introduced? What has that great new minister from the west introduced?

Mr. Murphy: Band-aids.

Miss Jewett: A lousy charter.

Mr. Murphy: A lousy charter and more studies. He is now taking the great initial step of studying four departments, not for the sake of action or to see what can be done, but to see whether there is a problem. It does not matter what the Public Service Commission has been telling them for years or what the various advisory councils have been telling them for years; they get up and say, "Is there a problem? We will send out a survey".

Miss Jewett: Another study.

Mr. Kristiansen: Take a poll.

Mr. Murphy: Take a poll, that is what they will do. If this government had any commitment to women, it would act not talk. If this government had any commitment to human rights, it would not be introducing a charter, it would be acting with

the powers it now holds. When it comes to the budget, we would not see this piece of litter, we would see a budget which would be meeting the needs of Canadians, helping all the regions of this country and helping the fishermen, the miners and the unemployed.

Mr. Paproski: Small business.

Mr. Murphy: And the small businessmen across this country. I would like to thank the hon. member from the agricultural belt for his assistance.

Mr. Paproski: Edmonton North, please.

Mr. Murphy: I realize, Mr. Speaker, that in a few minutes you will be calling for the vote, and I see that the Liberal sheep are entering the chamber.

Some hon. Members: Baa!

Mr. Lapointe (Beauce): One thing you have not yet learned, is to be polite.

Mr. Paproski: Here come the turkeys.

Mr. Murphy: The problem is that as the sheep come in for the vote, they have not heard the advice they have been given. They have not been listening to the budget debate. Of course, hon. members opposite will come in and stand up one after the other because they have been told that they should vote for the government. Those members from Atlantic Canada and those members of the constituencies which the NDP visited in the last couple of weeks, listened to complaints and heard about phony sod-turning ceremonies, will have trouble in the next election because they do not have the respect of their constituents, because they do not vote for the interests of their constituency.

Mr. Lefebvre: You know when to vote with us.

Mr. Broadbent: About twice a year.

● (2150)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 9.45 p.m., it is my duty to interrupt the debate and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the subamendment and the amendment now before the House, in accordance with the order passed on Tuesday, October 28, 1980.

[English]

The question is on the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Rae). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment to the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Those in favour of the amendment to the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea!