

*Employment Equity*

**Mr. Holtmann:** So the Hon. Member jumps up and tells us that his Party represents ordinary Canadians. He also said the NDP Government has demonstrated in Manitoba and Saskatchewan that it never breaks its promises. He tells us that New Democrats are the kind of people who never break promise. I want to tell the House something interesting. We had an election in Manitoba recently. The Premier of Manitoba said: "We are going to enact laws and take action on April 1 to bring gas prices down by at least nine cents". Almost a week after he was elected he said: "Oh, we will have to postpone it." That was a direct promise to take action on April 1 and he has since postponed it until June.

**An Hon. Member:** Shame.

**Mr. Holtmann:** How can the Hon. Member jump up and say that if his Party promises to do something it will act? The Hon. Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) should live in Manitoba how they and read the papers which tell the people in Manitoba have been led down the garden path, how they have been fooled by that type of activity.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You are a sore loser.

**Mr. Holtmann:** No, I am not a sore loser.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You dropped by 20 per cent in the polls in the last year and a half. You had it in the bag two years ago and you blew it.

**Mr. Holtmann:** While I was listening to what the Hon. Member said I thought about how the NDP portrayed itself as representing the labour force. I was flipping through Private Members' Bills which were put forward by Members of the NDP and found that his Party did not bring forward any type of legislation with respect to equality. In fact, they talk about Nicaragua and places around the world, but not Canada. That Party has not introduced any legislation on employment equity, which it has the ability to do, but it has addressed all kinds of other subjects.

I wonder why the Hon. Member rises in his place and criticizes the first type of legislation which moves employment equity in the right direction, something which could not be done by the previous administration? He says the legislation has not gone far enough. I ask him what has gone further than this? The Hon. Member could not comment on that because he just wants to criticize. The legislation is moving in the right direction. We cannot legislate every type of scenario which could occur in terms of equality. That Party would like us to, but it must understand that people are only human. I am sure everyone in this House would admit that it is not a perfect world. There is some discrimination in this country and always will be, I suppose.

**Mr. Cassidy:** This is a lousy Bill as well. Admit it is a lousy Bill.

**Mr. Holtmann:** I do not admit that it is a lousy Bill. The Hon. Member should have the decency, I think, to rise and admit it is moving us in the right direction.

**Mr. Althouse:** It doesn't move us anywhere.

**Mr. Holtmann:** Never before have we gone this far.

**Mr. Cassidy:** It doesn't move us an inch.

**Mr. Holtmann:** The Hon. Member says it doesn't move us an inch. Well, I will ask him what he has proposed in a Private Members' Bill which would move us further? What has he proposed? Nothing. When does he intend to propose anything, if ever? He might be provoked into doing something now because he knows that we have found out that he has not even thought of anything. Today all that Hon. Member wants to do is criticize.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Holtmann:** He is probably going to run back to his office to draft something up.

**Mr. Cassidy:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member alleged that I have not only done nothing but I have not thought at all about this issue. In fact, I would point to my record over the past 13 or 14 years.

**An Hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I do not believe that is a point of order.

• (1200)

**Mr. Cassidy:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please repeat what he said?

**Mr. Cassidy:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member disregards the fact that when I was Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, my Party—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I think that what the Hon. Member is saying is more a matter of debate between Hon. Members than a question of privilege.

**Mr. Taylor:** Tell us why they kicked you out!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Selkirk—Interlake (Mr. Holtmann).

**Mr. Holtmann:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to continue.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Let's hear about your promise regarding political rights. Where is the action from the Conservative Government?