

the members of the House a saying of the Haida people that: "We do not inherit this land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". That should be a motto for every member of this House of Commons.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I want to bring to the attention of the House the matter that was alluded to by our right hon. friend, that the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby was in the midst of making a statement. I think it may well have been impossible for hon. members to hear the statement. It is an important matter and I would ask the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby to present the statement again and completely.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the indulgence and the co-operation of the House in order to remake a statement that I feel is on a very important issue for all Canadians.

Last night we saw another callous acceptance of violence against women. A woman was sexually assaulted at a busy intersection in Calgary. She was running down the street, naked, begging for help.

Brian Dorscht was the only person who responded to her screams. Other people simply shouted obscene remarks and encouragement to the attacker. A police officer brushed off this tragedy by saying: "Of course people will catcall when they see a naked woman." We must make educational programs for judges, police and the public a priority in this House, to fight violence against women.

We can remove the "honest belief" clause from the Criminal Code, which allows some men to get away with rape. We can remove the regulatory red tape that is keeping millions of dollars targeted for battered women centres and shelters from being used at all.

In the face of women being gunned down on our university campuses, in the face of women being assaulted in the streets and in their homes, and in the face of a three year old child being called sexually aggressive and blamed for her own assault, we must act now.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I hope the Prime Minister would agree with me that there is an urgent need to express the sense of this House in support of language duality in Canada through a unanimous resolution.

The straightforward motion we have proposed was written to ensure the widest possible support, and reads as follows:

That this House reaffirm its commitment to support, protect and promote linguistic duality in Canada.

Will the government agree now to allow this motion to be put to the House for unanimous consent?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that we look forward to debating this issue and supporting it before the House of Commons.

I had not been given prior knowledge of the resolution by the Leader of the Opposition a few days ago. When it was received, quite properly we looked at it, agreed with the general thrust of it, and submitted it for consideration with an amendment to the new house leader of the Liberal Party.

I was informed by our house leader that the house leader of the Liberal Party indicated that with one exception, one word changed, it could be accepted by the Liberal Party. We made that word change the following morning and sent it back for approval. I and my colleagues look forward to debating it fully here on the floor of the House of Commons.

• (1450)

I did not know this, but I have just been informed by the government house leader that there is a suggestion forthcoming from the leader of the NDP. If an agreement has been reached on the language, which is essentially the thrust of what my colleague is talking about, not only will we be here to discuss and debate, but also to support very strongly the concept of bilingualism in Canada which we view not only as a noble but a very enriching dimension of our national life.