

and the lowest rate of employment. In every statistic showing people living in a bad way, the natives are at the top of the list. We are proposing in this Bill to go a long way towards doing away with the authoritarian, paternalistic approach which we, the white people who took this country over from the original inhabitants, have dealt with them in the past. We are proposing that they be given, as much as possible, the right to self-government. We all support that.

● (1610)

Surely the Member must realize that, just as we white people have often been less than fair in dealing with certain individuals or groups, the same thing has happened and could again happen with native people. The Member knows, better than I, the differences that arose between the national and provincial organizations of native people and native women because of the different way in which the children of a native person married to a non-native are treated. The children of a marriage between a native father and a non-native mother have been classified as native. The children of a native mother and a non-native father have not been classified as native. When women and other groups said that children of all mixed marriages should be treated in the same way, many leaders of native organizations opposed that.

Mr. Shields: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) on a point of order.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but say once again that we are dealing with Motion No. 37 moved by the Hon. Member which applies to membership codes. The Hon. Member is debating the total Bill. We should be getting on with debate on the motions. There will be time for the Hon. Member to make comments on any other areas when they come up for debate. However, we are presently dealing with a specific motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) has a point and I would like the Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) to debate Motion 37.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, with all due deference, this is the first time that I have spoken in this debate at any stage. I have spoken for less than three minutes and I will come to this particular amendment in about one more minute. If the Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) would contain himself, we would move on a lot faster than we would with him raising these so-called points of order.

The teachers on the Fort Alexander reserve near Pine Falls, Manitoba, some of who are native, decided that it was in their interest, and in the interest of most teachers, to have an organization and to associate themselves with the Manitoba teachers' society. They followed the provisions of the Canada Labour Relations Act and tried to get certified. The Canada Labour Relations Board and the courts have ruled that they have a right to become members of that organization. The

Indian Act

chief and the band council absolutely refused to accede to that very legitimate request.

We believe in Indian self-government, but in administering their self-government, the Indians must live up to the same basic principles as everyone else who lives in this country. They should not have the right to do things that are contrary to the Charter.

Mr. Penner: You're wrong.

Mr. Orlikow: Well, the Member says I am wrong.

Mr. Penner: You're wrong. Read the Constitution.

Mr. Orlikow: He is entitled to his opinion. That is my view and I say that the Charter—

Mr. Penner: You're wrong.

Mr. Orlikow: Well, the Member can say that I am wrong. In my view the equality provisions of the Charter should apply to everybody in the country. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment moved by my colleague, the Member for Malahat-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Manly).

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Administration of Justice—Enforcement of Young Offenders Act; the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—Charter of Rights—Funding of litigation. (b) Departmental studies. (c) Override provision; and the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie)—Pensions—Minister's position. (b) Concept of fairness.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INDIAN ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-31, an Act to amend the Indian Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and Motion No. 37 (Mr. Manly) (p. 5653).