

rey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen)—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—appointment of Mr. O'Neil to head public affairs programming; the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke)—Income Tax—legality of inclusion of benefits from low interest loans as income for tax purposes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

MEASURE TO PROTECT PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALS

The House resumed consideration of the motion (Mr. Basford) that Bill C-25 to extend the present laws of Canada that proscribe discrimination and protect the privacy of individuals be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): As I was saying before the House rose at one o'clock it was not my intention, at first, to speak on this bill. I have now had an opportunity to read the measure more carefully and although I listened intently to what the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) had to say, as far as I am concerned it really does not protect one's freedom of association or one's lack of freedom of association; it does not protect an individual from the ravages and sins created by discrimination by political affiliation or the lack of political affiliation, or against discrimination by language or lack of language.

In my own constituency, or, for that matter, in various constituencies across the country, people are being discriminated against in a subtle manner by reason of language, or the lack of it. Under existing employment and hiring practices and promotion practices in the public service, the Armed Forces, Crown agencies and the private sector, too, there certainly are discriminatory practices. Sincere and honourable employees are being punished by reason of language or lack of language. The Official Languages Act and its messy implementation may very well be part of the cause of this language discrimination. The minister tells us this is one of the reasons it was left out of the bill before us. When one speaks to English-speaking public servants and to numerous citizens in the private sector, it becomes obvious there has been discrimination which should have been prohibited by this bill. This discrimination creates hardship and financial difficulty not only for the employees concerned but for their families and all associated with them. Even as far as the Parliamentary staff here on the Hill is concerned, there appears to be clear evidence of inequitable employment practices based on language. I am reliably informed that in at least one branch of the parliamentary staff there is obvious discrimination. I have already drawn this to the attention of Your Honour and I hope the situation will be corrected.

Right here among members of parliament there is discrimination by reason of political affiliation or lack of it. I refer to my own position—my inability to become a member of any of

the committees of this House. This type of discrimination runs through the entire system of this House. This type of discrimination runs through the entire system of politics in this nation and I submit it is time it should be halted. This is the type of legislation which should be preventing these two types of discrimination—discrimination by reason of political affiliation, or the lack of it, and discrimination on the basis of language or the lack of it. This situation could have been corrected in Bill C-25. I believe the minister had the power to do so and he should have taken it upon himself here and now to ensure that the ravages and sins of discriminations should not continue in perpetuity.

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on this bill which finally codifies the Liberal—this government's abhorrence of any discrimination against Canada's citizens.

As a woman, and one who comes from a minority racial background—a minority which suffered everything including torture and genocide for 2,000 years—I personally welcome this legislation. I have known discrimination because of race, ethnic origin, religion and sex. Probably, now, I will face it on the basis of age. On the job, sexual discrimination has even been worse than discrimination because of race or ethnic background. It was done more blatantly because of sex. It was done as of right by men. I remember being told I would be the managing editor of my newspaper if I wasn't a woman, and I accepted that situation as being right and proper. I applied for the job as police chief for the City of Vancouver. Twenty-two people applied. I was the only woman. My credentials were considered among the best, but because I was a woman I was not even interviewed. I did not really care whether I became chief or not. I just wanted to let women know that they ought to apply for these executive jobs because one day there would be a human rights bill in Canada, such as is now before us, which would assure that they have, at least, an equal chance to work at jobs of this sort.

I welcome the bill also on behalf of my constituents. At least half of the population of Vancouver-Kingsway is composed, like that of all Canada, of women; many of them in my riding are mothers alone, working women who must hold their jobs and support their families at salaries lower than men have the potential to earn. The costs for food, lodging and the raising of children are the same for women breadwinners as they are for men. However, the opportunities for promotion, or leaving the women job ghettos until this bill comes into force will be nil.

My constituency needs this bill because it is a microcosm of the entire Canadian variety of ethnic cultural beauty. This mix, however, is not recognized by some as beauty. Discrimination does exist. As an illustration of the mix of nations in my riding of Vancouver Kingsway I cite last month's international night at one elementary school—Selkirk. Children of 39 nations, with their parents, jammed into a comparatively small auditorium, sharing their food, their art, their music, dance and costume. It is hard to believe that such beauty can be juxtaposed against cruel incidents of discrimination.