

*Status of Women*

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The government has broken so many rules that I suppose it will not make any difference if it breaks another.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) raised a good point about the problem of administrative discretion and the problem having to do with the district authority, which involves a quasi judicial situation. I point out that the provision he referred to is not new, in the sense that the bill reflects the present condition of the law. There is no change in that situation. Of course my remarks take nothing away from the validity of the caveat registered by the hon. member. For the sake of the record I point out that this is not a new expansion of the law; the administrative discretion provision merely reflects the continuation of the present law.

May I now deal with the point raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I should not like to see any confusion left on the record. I am sure he did not mean to create any intentionally, although in his speech he tended to imply that the bill provides more benefits for the common law spouse than it does for the legally married spouse. I assure him that in all the legislation we are considering equal benefits are made available. Benefits for the legally married spouse are to be the same as those for the common law spouse; they are to be the same for the formerly legally married widow and for the common law widow. There is no provision giving greater benefits to the common law widow than to the legally married widow. I do not think there is any possibility of this situation arising.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Only when all other conditions remain the same.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question? The question is on the amendment before the House.

Motion (Mr. Lalonde) agreed to.

**Mr. Lalonde** moved that Bill C-16, to amend certain statutes to provide equality of status thereunder for male and female persons, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the third time?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Now, by leave.

**Mr. Lalonde** moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

● (2050)

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have just a few brief comments at this final stage of Bill C-16 which is to make certain amendments to legislation affecting women which is already on the books. In committee all parties co-operated toward the speedy passage of this bill. It changes about eight pieces of legislation to end certain inequities affecting women. But I would enter a caveat

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

that here we are in International Women's Year and I hope the amendments in this bill are only a beginning because there is still much which ought to be done to end discrimination against women.

The changes are somewhat significant concerning maternity leave and unemployment, some changes to the electoral legislation, and so on down the line. But despite these amendments and despite the record of the government to date, discrimination against women is still quite severe in terms of job opportunities and pay, and I think this is something the government must address itself to very seriously especially in this International Women's Year.

I hope the minister does not become complacent and that he will realize there are many significant recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Status of Women having to do with pay and job opportunities, universal day-care facilities, and other areas which need speedy attention. I hope, as I say, that this is only a beginning and not what so many women fear is a mere token gesture to solve some of the serious problems facing women in Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

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[Translation]

#### LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS SUPERANNUATION ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board)** moved that Bill C-23, to provide for the payment of superannuation benefits to Lieutenant Governors, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

He said: Mr. Speaker, for quite a long time now, the government has felt necessary to grant Canadians who have served their country as lieutenant governor of a province, a pension which they could receive, as a reward for their services, once their normal five year term of office is over.

Although their cases may not be exactly the same, the people appointed from outside the public service to serve as ambassadors or high commissioners in a foreign country are entitled to benefits under the Diplomatic Service (Special) Superannuation Act. More recently, in 1967, Parliament adopted the Governor General's Retiring Annuity Act. Moreover, federal judges are entitled since 1868 to a pension under the Judges Act, while senators come under the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act since 1965.

Through the years, pensions have thus been provided for persons appointed to those other positions either by the Queen or the governor-in-council, but nothing has been done for lieutenant governors, even if their conditions of appointment are similar on certain aspects. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has therefore decided to present this bill, to fill those deficiencies in the existing pension legislation.