

*Supply*

The hon. member was talking about individualism and being able to stand alone, being able to make our decisions alone without any laws, rules, collective understandings or agreements of any sort. There was a time when that did exist. At that time there was also child labour and slavery in the world without any of these laws. I do not believe she is suggesting that we go back to those times.

The hon. member is also forgetting that women had to fight. There is the Person's case. Why do we even celebrate Person's day now? Did we forget that we had to fight for the rights to be considered as people and persons? It was not that long ago and a lot of things are still happening.

We saw in the paper just recently where women in business cannot get loans and have to pay higher interest. They stand alone but it does not seem to help. Being individuals does not seem to help.

Yes, we have a charter. Why do we constantly have to go to the Supreme Court with charter challenges in order to get the rights under that charter? They do not automatically happen just because there is a charter. How did we get the rights under that charter? It was by fighting tooth and nail because they were not in the original draft of the charter.

How does the member expect to stand alone, individually isolated and through osmosis each of us will do the right thing only because we want to and because it has never happened before?

**Mrs. Ablonczy:** Madam Speaker, it is very important to understand that because we are each responsible for our own future and our own achievements does not mean we are in isolation. Nobody with common sense would even suggest that a society which is a corporate word would want to isolate anyone. I do not recall ever using such a word. Yet, this hon. member is so concerned about branding people and putting them into groups that the word isolation stands out in her mind if you even dare to oppose such a concept.

We must help each other. That is the whole point of society. Everybody has read the poem "No Man is an Island". We know that to be true. What is really important to understand is that struggle is part of the human experience.

Yes, the struggles she talked about were important. Those struggles are going on today and will continue, but the important thing is that we become responsible for what we make of ourselves. If we are delivering results to people and delivering the things they need, then where is the achievement and the merit? It is owed to us and it becomes ours by matter of right. We do not have to work for it.

Discrimination cannot be redressed even though discrimination is a terrible thing. If I had been alive at the time when women could not vote, I would have been up there hollering and

screaming as loudly, as articulately and as passionately as anyone else. Discrimination cannot be redressed by more discrimination which is exactly what we are going to get if we are not careful.

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, I happen to be one of those people who believes we do not do enough research in Canada and probably throughout the world on people issues, the questions of poverty, racial discrimination, et cetera.

• (1525)

I am particularly concerned with the following. Is it the hon. member's opinion that we undertake enough research on people issues in Canada, obviously including issues that are directly related to women in society in general. I refer specifically to equal pay for work of equal value. Do we undertake enough research on other issues are particularly relevant to women, for example in the field of health? Do we undertake enough research in redressing some of the financial injustices women suffer in society?

**Mrs. Ablonczy:** Madam Speaker, the point I am trying to make is that all members of society are equally important. Why are we singling out a particular group as needing special help? All of us need to be treated fairly and impartially in this society, not just some of us. There is no reason to suggest that some of us are more entitled to fairness and impartiality than others. That is just not sensible.

We need to be concerned about each other. We need to help each other. Throughout the centuries the people of good ethics, solid citizens, the people who were respected were those who cared for the disadvantaged, the poor, the needy, those without a voice, those who were without anyone to fight for them. We must continue to do that.

The only point I am making is that kind of caring cannot be legislated. It must be done on an individual basis. It must be done by working with people. It is not done by creating some scheme where results are guaranteed, but where opportunities are fought for, where people are valued and where their achievements and aspirations can be freely met. It is a far different thing from meeting those aspirations for them. It gives them the opportunity to meet them.

We need to discuss the distinctions in this important area because it is a critical area. We have to care about each other and we do. What is the most caring thing, to give people gifts or to allow them the opportunity to get what they want in life through their own merits, their own struggles and their own efforts?

An illustration is often given of a butterfly that struggles and struggles out of the chrysalis. A chick tries to struggle out of an egg. Both are long and exhausting processes. However if you