

Estonia, continue to be concerned over the fact that the federal Government's publication *Diplomatic Corps And Consular And Other Representatives In Canada* does not include the names of the honorary consul generals representing each of these states in Canada. In light of the fact that this publication includes names of representatives from agencies such as the International Labour Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, to name but a few, I urge the Government and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) to include the names of the above three honorary consuls general under this special category of "Other Representatives".

On behalf of all Canadians of Baltic descent, I urge the Canadian Government to give some recognition to the representatives of these three important areas of the world by including their names in the above directory.

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INDIAN ACT

CALL FOR REPEAL OF SECTION DISCRIMINATING AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that I have to rise in the House today—

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McDermid: Wait for it—and again make a plea to the Government to bring forward legislation immediately to remove a Section in our Indian Act which discriminates against Indian women in our country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1115)

Mr. McDermid: Section 12.(1)(b) is the offending Section. It has been promised by this Government year after year in the Speech from the Throne, by the Minister responsible for the status of women (Mrs. Erola), by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and by the Minister of Indian Affairs (Mr. Munro). Yet we have no legislation. It is a black mark on the country. It is a black mark on the Government of the country. A Bill must be introduced in the House immediately so we can remove that discrimination in the Indian Act. It is a shame, and it must be done right now.

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CRIMINAL CODE

DEFINITION OF CHILD—CALL FOR AMENDMENT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, recently in Winnipeg a father was acquitted on a technicality after admitting that he had sexual intercourse with his adopted daughter. Apparently he could not be charged with having sex with his adopted daughter because the child was born out of wedlock and is not therefore a child according to the law as it

Oral Questions

now exists. The charge was changed to having sex with a foster daughter, and the man got off when the judge ruled that an adopted daughter does not fall within the definition of a foster child.

Clearly this is one of those cases in which the law is an ass. Action must be taken to amend the Criminal Code to provide better protection for illegitimate and adopted children. The Attorney General of Manitoba and others have called upon the federal Government to amend the Criminal Code to close this loophole. I would certainly urge it to do so as quickly as possible. I am confident there would be co-operation from all Members of the House.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—COMPARISON WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The Minister has said that when interest rates rise in the United States they must also rise in Canada. Can the Minister explain to 1.5 million unemployed Canadians why unemployment in the United States has been falling in the past few months, and rising in Canada? Why can we not share in some of the gains if we have to share in the pains?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, very simply, employment has risen in the United States and also in Canada. The reason that our unemployment figure has not gone down faster is the significant difference between the participation rates, that is, the number of people coming into the work force in Canada and in the United States. I will give my friend a figure. The increase in participation in Canada last year was 40 per cent larger than it was in the United States. We have had a much larger number of entrants into the labour force in Canada than there has been in the United States. This is part of the explanation.

The cycles of recession and recovery are not identical in Canada and the United States. Over time those cycles tend to be similar, but in the short term they have never coincided in the past. One should expect there to be lags in either direction between the two countries. However, fundamentally the same general direction applies.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, Canadians who are unemployed will have a lot of difficulty with that economic gobbledegook which can only be understood by some economists.

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, let us talk to the 1.5 million Canadians who do not have jobs. Why can