

Routine Proceedings

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Our position is that emphasis must be on individual achievement. Employers must treat people as individuals in all aspects of recruitment, training, hiring and promotion. The emphasis must be on the individual's experience, ability and performance. Putting the emphasis on individuals will ensure that women, racial minorities, aboriginals and the disabled are not held back by stereotypes or other discrimination.

● (1215)

Finally, there may well be those in the identified groups who need a helping hand and they should be encouraged. It is quite right that the public service would have this body to do just that, to encourage and to ensure that barriers do not exist.

However we should recognize that the vast majority of women, visible minorities, aboriginals and the disabled would resent being categorized as somehow disadvantaged and unable to compete on their own merit. That is something that needs to be understood, that many people have made tremendous strides in their achievements. They have done so and will continue to do so on their own merit, not because they have benefited by some special program.

We are, all of us, human beings with the same strengths, weaknesses, hopes and dreams as everyone else regardless of our defining characteristics.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 13th report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

Your committee has considered Bill C-18, an act to suspend the operation of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act and has agreed to report it without amendment.

I also have the honour to present the 14th report of the said committee on the membership of the various standing committees.

If the House gives its consent, I intend to move concurrence in the 14th report later this day and I would ask for the consent of the House to dispense with the reading of the report.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent among the members to dispense with the reading of the report?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development.

[*Translation*]

Pursuant to the order of reference of February 8, 1994, your committee has considered the modernization and restructuring of Canada's social security system.

[*English*]

This interim report represents the first phase of your committee's consultation with Canadians on the modernization of Canada's social security system.

Your committee is already preparing its second phase of consultation in anticipation of the release by the Minister of Human Resources Development of the government's action plan and proposed changes.

In conformity with the House's reference on February 8, it is your committee's intention to table its final report with recommendations on or before September 30.

[*Translation*]

I want to thank most sincerely all members and staff of the committee as well as the hundreds of Canadians who have contributed to that phase of our work.

Mrs. Francine Lalonde (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Bloc Québécois, the Official Opposition, is tabling a dissenting report that the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development has agreed to append to the majority report.

I would like to point out that the time frame set by the House in the committee's terms of reference is much too short to fulfil the obligation to consult all Canadians, in spite of outstanding and strenuous efforts on the part of the entire committee.

There is one major flaw in the report and it pertains to the respective responsibilities of Canada and the provinces. You will understand that this is a fundamental question, for Quebec in particular. In our view, this matter was dealt with much too quickly in the relevant section of the report for it to be acceptable. In the second phase of our work, we will give this matter all the consideration and attention it warrants.

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● (1220)

[*English*]

RAILWAY SAFETY ACT

Hon. Douglas Peters (for the Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-21, an act to amend the Railway Safety Act.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)