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Women are playing a very strong role in wanting the system to be accountable to them. Women and children from different groups, the disabled, minority groups and native groups, want to feel they are getting protection from the system. As we go through the process that I have gone through, sitting on a number of committees that deal with justice bills, we are left with the impression that all of the protections for those disadvantaged groups are not available.

Turning to the minister's decision to take out "all reasonable steps" and substituting "to take reasonable steps" in the legislation, we think that it has achieved the desired goal and we hope that the change will help the bill to withstand a charter challenge. We want this legislation to survive. We want it to function and function properly. We are hopeful that this change will achieve that goal.

In essence, we on this side have made our contribution to try to make the law better. The government has not seen the wisdom of some of the amendments that we have brought forward but at the same time that does not stop us from trying to lead this government to the right conclusions and in the right direction, even though it is sometimes stubborn.

This bill will go a long way to help solve the problem. It will not solve the problem of rape. It will not solve the problem of abuse against women and against children. It will take one small step in that particular area. It will take that one step of protecting women so that they do not become victims of the process. We still have to face those other fundamental issues and get to those fundamental root problems, but at least we are remedying part of the problem in the area of process.

We on this side are supportive of Bill C-49 and will be there to vote for it when the time comes. Thank you for the opportunity to address this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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

Government Orders

DIVORCE ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved that Bill C-79, an act to amend the Divorce Act and the Family Order and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present to you today for second reading a bill which contains a series of amendments to the Divorce Act and the Family Order and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act. The bill is intended to improve the operation of both those statutes and in some cases avoid serious problems of application.

In the summer of 1991 the Minister of Justice announced a comprehensive review of family law which should, over the next few years, lead to reforms in the crucial areas of child support, spousal support and custody and access. The bill before us today constitutes the first phase.

Phase two of the initiative includes public consultations on child support, spousal support, and custody and access in co-operation with the federal-provincial-territorial family law committee.

I am certain the family law initiative will convey two significant benefits. It will ensure our legislation is up to date and in keeping with the realities of today's families. In addition, the reforms in the areas of family support and federal support enforcement will enable some single parent families to live independent of public assistance, thus making more effective use of public resources.

In June 1986 a substantially revised Divorce Act took effect. Changes in terminology and substance were introduced to almost every section of the former divorce legislation. In addition, the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act was passed the same year. This new act enabled the federal government for the first time to assist the provinces in the enforcement of child and spousal support orders.

Part I of the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act provides for the release of information to locate persons who defaulted on these orders or missing family members, while Part II regulates the garnishment of various federal moneys such as income tax refunds payable to the support debtor.