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**Just what Ringma said..... 2**

OPINION

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Bob Ringma quit as Reform party whip yesterday, apologizing for his comments to the Vancouver Sun on the government amendment to outlaw discrimination against homosexuals. Following is an edited transcript of his controversial remarks:

Where do you stand on the government's initiative?

I and the public would say no, they should not be discriminated against. Then I next ask the question: Well, should they be discriminated in favor of? And I think I and the public would answer no. They shouldn't have discrimination in their favor. What I see this legislation doing is that will lead to that sort of discrimination. We believe in justice, we believe in equality for all. Well, let's have it without singling people out.

What did you say to your local paper about if you were an employer and how you'd deal with someone (who was gay)?

Two years ago a little gal . . . had me interviewed for about half an hour. At one point she said, what do you think about homosexuality, something like that. At one point I said, oh well, I find it repugnant, meaning - because I thought that's what we were talking about - the act of homosexuality.

But homosexuals, they're a different group, I don't happen to be in their league, in their camp, but I don't think they should be discriminated against, no. . .

The same gal asked me . . . she said something about employment. And I said, well if I had a business and a homosexual was there working for me and he was responsible for my losing business, then indeed I would think of letting him go, just as I would let anyone else go who's losing business for me.

What if the person was black and you had a lot of racist customers and that was costing you business?

Well, don't you think that an employer should have that sort of freedom that if someone's working for him and is responsible for his business failing that he should be able to say, hey, I don't need you in my employ or I'm going to switch you to the back of the shop or I'm going to do something to make sure you don't lose more business for me. Is that fair?

What if you had a black person that you hired and realized, God, all the people in this neck of the woods are racist and it's costing me business, would you fire that person?

That would be a very tough one, it would. But I'd have to put a black person in the same category as I'd put gay or any other minority.

You know, people should be treated with justice. I think we should all be treated equally.

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