

Alberta Grit stokes same-sex fears

Remarks follow Alliance MP's firing for gay rant

Hanneke Brooymans and Paula Simons

CanWest News Service; CanWest News Service

Friday, November 28, 2003

Legalizing same-sex marriage could be the "slippery slope" that leads to legalized polygamy and incest, says David Kilgour, the Liberal MP from Edmonton Southeast.

In an interview Thursday, Kilgour said if the government makes it legal for two people of the same sex to marry, it has no logical reason not to allow three people to marry.

When asked if he feared same-sex marriage could lead to legalized polygamy, he said: "I'm afraid -- and I'm not the only one afraid of this -- it could lead to mothers marrying sons and all kinds of things."

Kilgour's remarks follow on the heels of the Canadian Alliance's firing of its family issues critic for suggesting gay sex be put back into the Criminal Code.

Kilgour's stand came after he appeared at a town hall meeting Wednesday night to explain why he didn't show up in the Commons for the same-sex marriage vote in September.

Kilgour said he was afraid he would get kicked out of cabinet for voting with the opposition.

Kilgour holds a junior cabinet post as secretary of state for Asia-Pacific.

"In my mind, abstaining was the least worst position," Kilgour said.

"The Opposition motion had no legal significance. If I voted with the Opposition, I'd have to resign from cabinet before doing so under the rules of cabinet solidarity.

"On the other hand, I couldn't vote against a clear consensus of constituents. By staying away, I was respecting cabinet solidarity and not reducing Alberta representation in cabinet by half."

In a prepared statement delivered earlier this week, Kilgour said he polled his constituents and found two-thirds did not favour same-sex marriages.

As for his own beliefs, Kilgour said Thursday: "My own personal opinion is a complicated one.

"There are an awful lot of people who are gay who have suffered all kinds of abuse and what not and a lot of them, I gather, attempt suicide, and that, as a parent, as a person, bothers me enormously. The last thing I want to do is to create a situation that makes that more common."

Edmonton Journal



David Kilgour

© Copyright 2003 Calgary Herald

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2003 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All rights reserved.
Optimized for browser versions 4.0 and higher.