

children took great care in participating in and supporting the democracy of Canada. I am here today because of him.

My other grandmother provided me with another strong role model, a woman with her own special brand of humour, intelligence and tenacity.

While we discuss a grandparent's day for Canada I would like to introduce the idea of reciprocity. The trend from single to dual earner families has restructured the family as we know it. This has required substantial lifestyle changes within households. The trend has produced uncertainties in role expectations for spouses, their children and grandparents.

Family members or friends provide most of the support for seniors needing care. In return, seniors are active contributors to their families. They provide financial assistance, care for their grandchildren, do housework, they bake and they undertake household repairs. More important, they provide emotional support and continuity for the younger members of their families.

Grandparents donate their time as volunteers, they share their experience—

## ROYAL ASSENT

• (1820)

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

• (1830)

*And being returned:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-76, an act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 27, 1995—Chapter 17.

Bill C-67, an act to establish the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, to amend the Pension Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to repeal the Veterans Appeal Board Act—Chapter 18.

Bill C-37, an act to amend the Young Offenders Act and the Criminal Code—Chapter 19.

Bill S-7, an act to accelerate the use of alternative fuels for motor vehicles—Chapter 20.

Bill C-70, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Income Tax Application Rules and related Acts—Chapter 21.

*Private Members' Business*

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

### GRANDPARENTS DAY ACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion that Bill C-259, an act respecting a national grandparent's day, be read the second time and referred to a committee.

**Mrs. Karen Kraft Sloan (York—Simcoe, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, grandparents donate their time as volunteers. They share their experiences of life, thereby passing on values to a new generation. Grandparents support a child's development by unconditional love.

Both grandfathers and grandmothers are retiring earlier from the workforce and remaining active and healthy. This affords them the time to emphasize family care and connections. The active participation of grandparents in the lives of their grandchildren helps reduce the stress on their own children who are trying to juggle family and work responsibilities.

We pride ourselves in Canada on being a caring population. We respect and celebrate individual differences. This is our opportunity to honour the role seniors in general and grandparents in particular play in the interdependent relationship enjoyed by different generations. This is the opportunity to do so by declaring a national grandparent's day we can celebrate each year to remind us and Canada's future generations of that interdependence and reciprocity and to honour our elders for their significant contributions.

• (1835)

**Mr. Paul Szabo (Mississauga South, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to address the House on the issue of creating a special day each year known as grandparent's day all across Canada.

From a child's point of view, a grandparent is the person who loves unconditionally. Child development experts will tell you that unconditional love is the kind of love you receive just for being you, and it is critical in the life of a child.

Not too long ago in this House an hon. member referred to his grandson as the most handsome, intelligent, talented, and clever boy in the whole world. The other grandparents in the room may have taken issue with the statement, because we all know that in fact our grandchildren are the best, the finest, the most terrific kids in the whole universe.

Children learn about themselves from many sources. One such source is to see oneself through another's eyes. What they see in a grandparent's eyes is a reflection of their own special uniqueness. From these loving mirrors self-esteem is developed, and from that love come immeasurable benefits for children, young and old.