

*Registered Charities*

May I commend the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) the Chairman of that Committee, who has for some time now aggressively sought this kind of subject matter for the Committee's consideration. The Finance Committee has done a very good job over the past two years in considering tax legislation, banking and a variety of subjects and has passed its opinions on to the Government. It has become a sort of tradition started by the former Minister of Finance, the present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), who last year wanted the Finance Committee to comment on tax matters. Some very controversial legislation was sent to the Finance Committee in the summer of 1982 when we had two or three months of discussion and reported to the Minister. Some of the Committee's recommendations were then incorporated in Bill C-139.

There has been a lot of activity of that sort and all of us who are members of the Finance Committee are proud of our contribution. It has worked as parliamentary committees should and much of the credit does to the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, the Chairman.

The subject matter of the Bill, charities, is the subject matter of the discussion paper issued by the Department of Finance entitled "Charities in the Canadian Tax System". I refer Hon. Members to that paper which has captured the attention of charities and foundations across the country. I understand there was an August 15 deadline for submissions to the Department on that paper but submissions are still coming in at the rate of 40 or 50 per week. They are being accepted and studied despite the deadline. There will be more consultation between the Department and the private sector before any recommendations go on to the Minister. The reference of this material to the Finance Committee will complement the work that the Department of Finance has been doing on its own.

I have reflected on the experience I have had with charitable organizations in my riding, Mr. Speaker. When I first heard about this Bill it occurred to me that Mississauga charities were probably typical of those that operate all across the country. Thousands of people are involved in a variety of activities, from community enrichment to hobby and sports groups. They do not rely on big handouts from Government but on the ingenuity and generosity of participating citizens. Some of them are ready to charge the beneficiaries of their activities a small user fee.

There is a school lunch program in my city which affect thousands of families. Mothers from across Mississauga go to the schools and help in the supervision of children over the lunch hour, trying to upgrade their nutritional standards at the same time. They take occasional small grants from Government agencies but are proud of the fact that they have a self-supporting volunteer organization. They recruit senior citizens and I think they are about to go to the New Horizons' program to see if there are ways to encourage and fund the activities of seniors to complement their own work in the schools at lunch hour. The schools that take part in the program are grateful for it and the people who run it take pride in their self-sufficiency and independence.

In Mississauga we hold an annual Citizen of the Year dinner. The people nominated and the person selected are voted for and supported by volunteer groups in Mississauga. Over 200 people come to the dinner and the proceeds go to a selected group within the city. The award is named after an outstanding citizen, the late Gordon Shipp, who was a great community builder as well as a leader and volunteer. The family, under the leadership of Harold Shipp, continues the tradition and supports the Citizen of the Year dinner. The people nominated work in hospitals, with crippled children, school associations, trade unions and business associations. This year the winner was Mr. David Doncaster and I am sure Hon. Members would like me to extend my congratulations to him. He is a well rounded community spirited man whose contributions have made our community stronger. The people involved in the award do not rely on Government help. They do not want it. They rely on their own ingenuity and I compliment them for it.

An Hon. Member referred to Government grants and Government aid programs. In Mississauga these programs work very, very well. For example, the New Horizons program was used by the Senior Asian Multicultural Association under the leadership of Mr. J. D. Mohan. Every year it gives an award for human rights and community development to people who show leadership in those areas. It is a nice occasion when a bus driver, a postman, the mayor or any other person active in the community who contributes to human rights and community development is recognized.

The New Horizons program also helped a group of senior citizens in the Ivan Franko Home. That is one of the non-profit homes built by the outstanding Ukrainian community in my city. It has a few extra acres of land which have been turned into a farm. The New Horizons program was used to buy gardening and farming equipment. Residents in the home now grow their own food and are becoming more and more self-sufficient through their efforts. They have a nice hobby in the garden and they have returns for their efforts. There are beehives and orchards and a variety of vegetable plots which the residents maintain. That is something which has made that corner of Mississauga very pleasant. I understand that the home will be relying on a Summer Canada grant next year to hire a few students to maintain the orchard and to continue this farming operation.

● (1720)

The Summer Canada program with students in Mississauga worked very well. For example, this year I received two letters which I feel are worth noting. The first letter was from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Mr. Victor Irvine, District Administrator, wrote to me on September 13, and I would like to quote one paragraph:

We, at the CNIB, have been pleased to provide the vehicle for the employment of sincere students and to facilitate meaningful programs to visually impaired children.

As well, Mr. Speaker, on August 26 I heard from Lorri Smith and Barb Brandow of the Boys and Girls Club of Peel. I would like to quote from their letter: