lower interest rate. This clearly represents a very confusing situation for consumers.

The discussion paper outlines a number of alternative approaches which can be used by Government to help consumers make informed comparisons of the interest charges from competing credit cards. The objective of the current federal-provincial activity on credit card interest charges is to promote consumers' ability to make informed decisions on a competitive card market.

The Government has demonstrated its intention to proceed as quickly as possible to institute measures regarding credit card interest charges, which will be of great benefit to Canadians.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs tabled its report on March of 1987. In June of that year, federal-provincial activity in the area of credit card charges began.

In December of that year, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs made an announcement concerning the Government of Canada's approach to the issue and, in accordance with a committee recommendation, released the first of regular consumer information materials on this issue.

The federal-provincial discussion paper was released in April of 1988. Even now, government officials are presumably preparing to report on consultations with the private sector concerning the policy options outlined in the discussion paper.

My good friend, the Hon. Member for Scarborough West, will know that not infrequently members of Government who have a particularly good reason for bringing forward a Private Member's Bill and who do a tremendous amount of work on it do not necessarily get their Bill through. I stood in this House about three years ago with a recommendation and had it talked down by my colleagues. I felt some considerable hurt at that time, because I felt then, as I do now, that the intent of the Bill was absolutely essential. In my zeal to have my Bill put through, I was quite discouraged when my colleagues talked it out. I am happy to say that the essence of my Bill is now in place. I will not talk out this Bill this afternoon. We are in the dying minutes of a Parliament that, with all things considered, has been very productive.

I think, when he comes back, as most assuredly he will, that he will be able to follow on with his quest for fairness for consumers in this particularly difficult area, and I am confident that despite the technocrats, as he made the point in his speech, he will eventually be successful. I want to go on record as wishing him every success, both in his election and in his work in this House in the future.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me these few minutes to say again that when I came into this House the first day as a very young Member, the House was full to capacity. As I stand here today, there are very few of us here, but at least I have had a chance in the dying minutes to go on record and say how much I have appreciated being here. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will allow me to extend cordial greetings to my good friend, the Hon. Member for Prince Edward—Hastings (Mr. Ellis).

[*English*]

As you know, Mr. Speaker, for the last four years I had the honour every Wednesday of the year, almost, to chair the Members' Services Committee. We sat every Wednesday afternoon very peacefully, but very energetically. It was one of my great pleasures to be Chairman of that permanent committee of the House of Commons.

I must explain for those who are listening that, by tradition, this committee is usually chaired by a senior member of the Official Opposition. One of my pleasures, as I was saying, in being the Chairman of that committee was to have on the committee the Hon. Member for Prince Edward—Hastings (Mr. Ellis), who was the Vice-Chairman. I would rather call him by his name, as we always do. I must say that he sat on that committee before I became Chairman. Therefore, I was very privileged to be well informed by him as to the tradition of that committee.

There is a long series of great Members, and he may correct me if I miss some. I do not know how you say it in English. The *le regretté*. Mr. Duquet from Quebec was a member of that committee. That committee was chaired mainly by the Member from Nova Scotia, Bob Coates, and before him by Mr. Angus MacLean, who became Premier of Prince Edward Island. I have the honour, as I said, to chair that committee. I could not have done so without the immense co-operation of the Vice-Chairman.

I must say today that I always regret when I see an old colleague, a friend of mine, leaving the House, whatever Party he may belong to. I see with great sadness the departure of Dr. Pauline Jewett. I had the honour to sit with her as a Liberal Member when I came into the House of Commons in 1964, and I regret very much her departure. I sat with her on the committee of foreign affairs, national defence, and with Mr. Manly, who I had less chance to know.

There are so many colleagues of other Parties. I think of Dr. Isabelle right behind me, who is not going to run again. He is a long serving Member. There are so many other Members. There is Mrs. Killens. If I start, I will have to get the list of those who are not running. I hear that there are around 40 to 50 Members of Parliament who are not going to run again. I regret their departure. Every one of them, in their own way and in their own capacity has served very well.

I would also like to say that this is a good Bill. That is why I stood up to speak today. The time has come to provide for the limitation of interest rates and fees in relation to credit card accounts. I certainly pay homage to my colleague, who introduced the Bill, Mr. Stackhouse from Scarborough West.