

### Youth Appreciation Week

Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker)—Public Works—Alleged disposal of old barges by Department in Lake Okanagan—Steps to remove; the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes)—Industry—Possible closure of Abitibi mill in Sault Ste. Marie—Use made of development grants by company.

• (1700)

It being 5 o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, private bills, notices of motions (papers) and public bills. As there are no private bills or notices of motions (papers) listed on the order paper, the House will proceed directly to public bills.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

### NATIONAL YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK ACT

#### MEASURE TO ESTABLISH OBSERVANCE

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta)** moved that Bill C-13, respecting National Youth Appreciation Week, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that hon. members will agree with me that we hear much more about the troubled youth in our society than we do about all the good things that youth are doing today. On November 14, 1972, I attended an Optimist Club meeting in my riding. Four young people were being presented with plaques which read:

Youth Appreciation Week Citation for upholding the dignity of youth, for sincere devotion to our welfare and for generous and unselfish contributions to our society.

This ceremony was not only taking place in my riding, but also across Canada and the United States. On that same day, a boy in St. Catharines received a plaque and 10 students in the city of Vanier, in the province of Quebec, also received plaques, as well as many others.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said:

I think that as life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived.

We can be proud of the extent to which our young men and women today are playing an active role in the continuing growth of our country. In organizations as diverse as student governments, vocational education, civic, social, business, religious and social action groups, these young citizens are learning the ideals of Canada by putting them into practice. Hard work, co-operation, patriotism and individual excellence; all of these come to be cherished by those who participate constructively in this building of Canada, and often this learning has expanded the ideals and consciences of Canadians, refreshing our spirit.

As we move into the second century of our country, the mantle of responsibility and leadership will be passed to this generation of young Canadians. I am convinced that the youth of today will wear that mantle proudly, carry

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

out the responsibilities of adulthood and leadership with conviction and concern for their fellow man, and reflect great credit on their country.

In recognition of the natural resource Canada's youth represents, and to promote a greater understanding between our generations, I strongly urge the members of this House to allow this bill to go to the committee, and declare that throughout Canada, in each year, the third week in the month of November be known and observed as National Youth Appreciation Week.

I could continue, Mr. Speaker, but I understand some other members wish to speak on this bill. I understand the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) will be making his maiden speech. I am very happy that he thinks so much of my bill that he is addressing his maiden speech to it. I ask hon. members on both sides not to take the usual course in respect of private members' bills. Let us show the youth of today that we do care. I know all members are in favour of the bill, but let us not be so much in favour of it that we talk it out. I invite hon. members to speak their piece and then sit down so that we can get this bill to the committee.

[Translation]

**Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke):** Mr. Speaker, since I am delivering my first speech in the House, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the important position of Speaker of this House. The tributes paid to you and the praise given to you by the various party leaders during the debate on the Address in reply to the Throne Speech as well as by those who spoke during the different discussions which followed show how much you are appreciated by the members. We know quite well that your position is sometimes thankless and always exhausting. I therefore congratulate you for having accepted at such a trying time to conduct the proceedings of the House, a task which you perform with so much tact.

When I was approached to speak on Bill C-13, I accepted with no questions asked, as it were, because I had no idea what it was all about, not even knowing the number of the bill. And I realized later that the number of the bill was C-13. Since I am the thirteenth of a family of fourteen one can imagine how happy I was about that coincidence since I take deep interest in youth.

A short survey among hon. members would indicate no doubt that most of them approve of a youth week. If we recognize, as pointed out by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds), that the first resource of a country is its people we will agree readily that, surely, the most important part of that resource, without any prejudice to the others, is its youth.

In the explanatory notes to the bill one can read:

The purposes of this Bill are:

To recognize the accomplishments of youth in the home, school, church and community;

To promote more active participation by members of families—  
To encourage organizations and other groups to publicly show their respect for youth;

At a time when what is going wrong in society is overstressed, I find it entirely in order for an hon. member to recognize the merits of such a proposal and ask his colleagues to support it.