

Private Members' Business

[English]

Mr. Soetens: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity that you are providing.

To make sure the member understands, I did make a point of advising you that I was most anxious to speak on this motion on education. Education is extremely important, not just to the province of Quebec or to the province of Ontario. It is obviously very important to everyone in this country and it has been very important to this government as we have indicated in our past actions. It continues to be a very prime concern on actions that we are involved in.

I hope that nobody, not the members opposite nor the members on our side, can be happy that we have a 30 per cent drop-out rate from our high schools. No one pretends that our literacy and numeracy rates are adequate because they are certainly not.

No one pretends that the educational status quo will do in the face of increasing competition globally and our

growing reliance on knowledge based industries and occupations. In fact there is an emerging consensus that we in this country must seriously reassess our current approach to education in Canada. We all appreciate that we must reconsider our education goals, our training programs and our teaching priorities.

However, it is also clear that the challenges that confront Canadians in education will only be resolved through a measured, co-ordinated and co-operative program.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

[Translation]

It being 8 p.m. this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 8 p.m.
