

the federal government and its employees. It is my hope also that this new charter of rights and freedoms will protect my constituent, Mr. Stevenson, against age discrimination. Section 15(1) gives every Canadian equality before and under the law, and equal protection and benefit of the law.

I shall quote from Section 15(1) from the notice of motion put by the Minister of Justice yesterday, November 18, 1981. It reads:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

My question in this chamber on November 16 was whether this section of the charter, specifically concerning mandatory retirement, will come into effect immediately after the Constitution is patriated, or will there be a three-year waiting period. This is the question the acting minister did not answer, and I hope that the Minister of Justice, or his parliamentary secretary, will answer today.

A clear answer to this question today will let Captain Ross Stevenson know whether he can work for Air Canada past the age of mandatory retirement of 60.

I wish to congratulate my constituent and his wife for their commitment in attempting to remove this discriminatory policy from the collective agreement between Air Canada and the Canadian Airline Pilots Association. Canada has witnessed many heroes in its 114-year history. Hopefully, Captain Stevenson will be one of those heroes who did something positive for his country.

I am very pleased that one of my constituents, Mr. Gustow Slodkowski is here listening to the debate. Mr. Slodkowski is the editor of the Polish Alliance Press of Canada. He could have retired two years ago, but he did not. His skills were

recognized. They were put to good use and he is still the editor today.

Canada is a country which recognizes the skills of people past any mandatory retirement age and puts them to good use. I hope that the parliamentary secretary has the answer that I am seeking today for Captain Ross Stevenson.

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): The hon. member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Flis) asked earlier this week whether Section 15 of the Canadian charter of rights and freedoms when it comes into force would affect Captain Stevenson's case, an Air Canada pilot who received instruction to leave his employment at the age of 60.

The House is aware that it is improper to comment on the Stevenson case because it is currently before a human rights tribunal. I am pleased to say that Section 15 of the charter, which the hon. member has just read is now before the House.

It will be up to the courts to give a meaning to the equality rights guaranteed by the charter. These rights will not become effective until three years after the adoption of the charter in order to allow each level of government to review and amend any laws which may not conform to the non-discrimination rights. Pension laws fixing mandatory age of retirement will have to be examined closely during this process since age is one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination under Section 15.

● (2225)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): A motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

At 10.25 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.