Deductions for Volunteer Services

ing, returning home at night at nine, ten, or 11 because we do not have sufficient rink ice time in this great winter country for our children. They drive our children, teach them and advise them, and they are spending time with the very people with whom they want to spend our time, our children. More time should be spent in that way. These volunteers would also love to have a receipt acknowledging their contribution for income tax purposes.

Then there are the coaches who volunteer their services for minor sports activities; we place a great deal of confidence in them. Then there are mothers who spend hours and hours cooking for special occasions, such as visiting teams that have to be fed and housed. Many people do this work for absolutely no consideration at all. I think it would be worth while to provide them with a receipt too.

Then there are the volunteers in our hospitals. How many hours do they spend as hospital auxiliaries supplying voluntary nursing care that patients cannot always afford for themselves? Meals on wheels are also a great contribution to our society, calling for the skill of many people who not only drive canteens but do the cooking and prepare the small utility meals that are so nutritional in value. They provide a service to people who otherwise could not afford such comforts. Again a receipt for tax purposes would be a very commendable gesture.

This week I had the experience of putting my mother into a nursing home, where I watched volunteers at work. They spend many hours supplying the teaching skills needed for embroidery, knitting, writing and reading. They spend hours making sure that sick people are happy people. I commend them to our country for the contribution they make.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flynn: Let me tell the House that to record in an analytical and statistical way the services that these people perform would be an erroneous and time consuming task that would be endless. It would create unnecessary work, even more LIP projects that we do not need. We would have to supply volunteer service to look after the volunteers.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Five o'clock.

Mr. Flynn: Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order. It being five o'clock the hour for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

Mr. Blais: Madam Speaker, I would simply like to thank all the "volunteers" who contributed this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): It being five o'clock this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.