

*Private Members' Business*

I think the fact that many members stayed at this hour of the night to listen to the debate indicates the interest that there is in it.

We recognize also that there is a Gallup poll that has been done which shows that 75 per cent of all Canadians favour euthanasia but when you look at that poll more closely you will find that euthanasia is not very well defined.

When we were holding hearings on the bill, from the member for Fraser Valley West we discovered that there are many different aspects of euthanasia and many different definitions. I think when we look at this bill that a motion should be made for the government to initiate legislation to discuss euthanasia.

Immediately we would have to ask what the need is. What are the manifest needs for such legislation in this House at this particular time? I have not had any great numbers of letters or phone calls or anything from my constituents. We have not seen any great outcry from the newspaper and the popular press.

What we do have is a couple of very significant court cases that have occurred in the past and are occurring at the present time, particularly Sue Rodriguez. I appreciate the clarification of the sponsor of this motion that the motion was put in prior to the time that Sue Rodriguez went to court.

What concerns me when I watch the television proceedings of the Rodriguez case in Vancouver is that I see a very ill woman who we all must sympathize with. All around her I see lawyers, politicians and various activists who all have some particular benefit to be gained or have some agenda that they want to see served. The real question on my mind is whether this woman is being manipulated. She has expressed a desire to end her life when the time comes. I have a real concern for this woman in that area.

I think there is some evidence for that in the headlines of *The Vancouver Sun* on February 2. The head of the Right to Die Society admitted that he had forged Sue's initials on a letter. In it he said that the Saanich woman said the letter does not represent her viewpoint and was sent without her knowledge. The fellow that did that is the executive director of the Right to Die Society that is backing Rodriguez court challenge to have the law prohibiting assisted suicide struck down. He admitted: "My actions were both inappropriate and unethical. I think we need to look at that with care."

The member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell mentioned a judge in his area. I have a constituent, a Mr. Roy Slater, from Ladner, the founder of the ALS society who was told 12 years ago that he only had a year or two to live. Yet in that time he has founded the ALS Society. As head of the retired civil servants, he has been active in Indian missions and he has been active in his church.

About one year and a half ago, I went to the Willow Chest Centre at Vancouver General Hospital for what I thought was my last visit with him. Just about six months ago we went to a dinner in his honour put on by the ALS Society. One and a half years ago, he could have been terminated but he chose not to and he is continuing on.

I will continue this speech at the next hour.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member will have six minutes remaining in his speech.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the order is dropped to the bottom of the list from the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

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

The House adjourned at 9 p.m.