

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Harry Chadwick (Bramalea—Gore—Malton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the government's response to the standing committee report on the economic integration of disabled persons was tabled this morning.

It is yet another step taken by the Government of Canada in ensuring that persons with disabilities are full and equal participants in Canadian social and economic life.

The government has illustrated its commitment to this goal through the establishment of the Status of Disabled Persons Secretariat, a \$3.2 million yearly provision to the disabled persons participation program, the inauguration of National Access Awareness Week, and the enactment of the first ever National Employment Equity Act which protects persons with disabilities.

We call on communities across Canada to help us continue to meet these objectives by eliminating the barriers to full access for disabled persons.

Join us in pursuing this pre-eminent goal of Canadian citizenship.

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THE LATE HUGH MACLENNAN

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened, as I know all hon. members were, to learn last evening that Hugh MacLennan had passed away.

Mr. MacLennan, one of Canada's foremost authors, was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in 1907. He grew up in Halifax and studied at Dalhousie University before attending Oxford and Princeton Universities.

His best remembered works include: *Barometer Rising*, *The Watch That Ends the Night*, *Voices in Time*, and of course, his most famous work, *Two Solitudes*, which showed the author's understanding, appreciation and hopes for his country.

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Mr. MacLennan's writing about Canada, its people and its places, brought him both honour and distinction. He received five Governor-General Awards, he was a Companion of the Order of Canada, and he held 18 honorary degrees.

We pay our tributes to his memory today and express our sincere sympathy to those who mourn his untimely passing.

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DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, it was with consternation and disappointment that I read the government's so-called action plan on disability tabled earlier today. Given the Prime Minister's lofty words of encouragement for disabled Canadians, I expected much more.

The few initiatives taken are not nearly enough. Three and a half million disabled Canadians have waited patiently for a comprehensive plan of action from this government. Piece-meal activity and rhetoric are just more smoke and mirrors. Federal leadership and commitment are needed now, not at some politically convenient date further down the road.

Is the Prime Minister really interested in the well-being and equality of Canadians with a disability? Does the minister responsible for disabled Canadians really care about their full participation in community affairs?

Talk is cheap and that is what we have seen in today's report on disability—talk, talk and more talk. Cheap, cheap, and more cheap.

Mr. Speaker, I very much regret having to say that, and I say it more in sadness than in anger.

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[Translation]

THE DISABLED

Mr. Allan Koury (Hochelaga—Maisonnette): Mr. Speaker, the report tabled this morning by the minister responsible for the Status of the Disabled, the Secretary of State, in response to the committee's report, contains some important measures, including an exhaustive analysis of federal legislation affecting the disabled.