

*Senior Citizens*

and villages, senior citizens usually have friends and relatives who help look after them.

Some senior citizens who are 65, 70 or 75 are probably more alert and active than a good many people in the 35 to 50 age group. Just two or three days ago I had the privilege of sending a letter of congratulations to a couple in Parry Sound, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Greer, who will celebrate their seventy-first wedding anniversary on March 25. They are still living in their own home and looking after themselves. That shows how conducive the environment in Parry Sound is to good health!

In the smaller areas apartments are provided for senior citizens. As the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Weatherhead) mentioned, a good many of them are provincially sponsored but the federal Government has done an excellent job through CMHC of providing co-operative or non-profit apartment units for seniors. This enables some people to move out of the large house they have lived in but still be together in an apartment.

The Hon. Member for York-Sunbury has suggested that a commission be established. Of course, it could be claimed that there have been too many commissions already but perhaps senior citizens could be appointed to this one from seniors' groups across the country to act in an advisory capacity to the Government.

In the past week or so someone suggested that a senior citizen's parliament should be inaugurated so that their wisdom could be used. Perhaps they would not need to meet for as long or as often as we do, but I am sure they could contribute some excellent ideas and give good advice on legislation that even this august body could take into very serious consideration.

I feel that the New Horizons Program is very important, Mr. Speaker, as it makes senior citizens feel that they are wanted. Through that program equipment is provided for club rooms, among other things. In the past few months I have had the privilege of visiting three or four senior citizens' club rooms in my riding for which the Government provided the equipment. This is very useful and people like to congregate there.

As the Hon. Member for York-Sunbury said, there is also the other side of the coin and that is care for the people who are in nursing homes which, as he pointed out, come under provincial jurisdiction. Prior to becoming a Member of this House I had the privilege of sitting on the board of directors of a senior citizens' home in my riding. It is a provincial home and a beautiful one where excellent care is given. The staff there does an outstanding job. There are three senior citizen homes in the riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka and I have visited all of them. I can assure Hon. Members that they are well run by a board of directors made up of municipal officials and concerned citizens. There is no way there could be any mistreatment.

A few days ago I received a letter of complaint about the treatment of certain senior citizens. It was claimed that they were tied in their chairs, but when I checked with the director

of the home, I was told that they had to be tied, otherwise they would fall out. The senior citizen homes are doing an excellent job, Mr. Speaker.

I hope the Government will give consideration to sending Bill C-521 to committee and to appointing the commission. This would not cost any money.

I see there are only a few minutes left, Mr. Speaker, so I hope we can put the question now.

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it surprises me to learn from Hon. Members opposite that they are concerned about talking out the Bill. The Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) took his full 20 minutes, allowing little or no opportunity for other Members to participate in the debate, and the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) ran the clock out telling us about the situation in his riding rather than dealing with Bill C-521.

We have to ask if we need another commission to do more study. Clause 3 of the Bill reads as follows:

The objects of the Commission are to study and identify the needs of senior citizens.

It is the position of the Government that we wish to implement the recommendations being put forward rather than give birth to more studies. It surprises me that Bill C-521, which is identical to Bill C-218 which received first reading on October 31, 1977 during the third session of the Thirtieth Parliament, has been reintroduced.

I have the greatest respect and sympathy for the motives of the Hon. Member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) because the well-being of senior citizens is of great concern to all of us. It certainly is to me. The well-being of these people is part of our concern in the House and the Government's programs are well known to the people of Canada and to Members of the House.

● (1630)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. Pursuant to Standing Order 24(2), it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings.

Shall all orders listed under Private Members' Public Bills preceding No. 164 be allowed to stand by unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**AN ACT RESPECTING THE RECOVERY OF ALIMONY AND MAINTENANCE**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

**Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Montreal-Mercier)** moved that Bill C-364, an Act respecting the recovery of alimony and maintenance, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.