

Youth Appreciation Week

and girls who are recognized for their achievements within the community.

Of all the letters I have read I thought the letter from our Governor General was very apropos to read into the record, especially at a time when it is to be hoped, this motion will pass. It reads as follows:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

It gives me great pleasure to join hands with the members of Optimist International to pay tribute to the Canadian youth during this Youth Appreciation Week.

In view of the growing complexities of the problems that assail us, it is encouraging to see more and more young people involving themselves in community activities, thereby sharing heavy responsibilities in many fields. Moreover, it is only by your skills and initiative that you can attain your rightful place, that of co-builders of a new society.

In the mid seventies we are faced with the uncertainties of a new era brought about by many recent changes in our social structure. Our hope for the future is that the young people of today will involve themselves in the search for the answer to our problems.

Every year in November, the Youth Appreciation Week offers us an excellent opportunity to observe and appreciate those young Canadians who have accepted the challenge of a new Canada.

I offer my warmest congratulations to all those whose merits will duly be recognized this week.

Jules Léger

I think that letter says it better than anything anyone can say in this House. I will take my seat and hope that the House will let this motion pass.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, in just a very few words I should like to commend the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) for bringing this matter before the House at this time. I am also pleased that he has withdrawn his bill and given us a resolution instead. I say that, if for no other reason than because the resolution has a chance of being passed, and I think it is better for the House to say yes this afternoon than for it just to talk a matter out and leave it at that.

I want also to underline the view expressed by the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) when he said that it is important that we do more than indulge in rhetoric. If we want to show appreciation of the youth of Canada we must be very specific. I will put it in as tight a nutshell as I can. I believe that if we want to show appreciation of our youth we must see to it that the Canada in which they are living and the Canada of the future will be one in which there is full employment, along with equal educational and cultural opportunities for all. It must be a place in which the housing needs of young people and their families, now and in the decades to come, are met. It must be a country in which there is full and complete health care and security down the road. It must also be a country and a world in which the air and the water are clean and where there is a secure peace. These are the kinds of things we ought to work very hard for if we really want to show appreciation of our Canadian youth.

Mr. Roger Young (Niagara Falls): Madam Speaker, my remarks will be brief. As a young man who, some years ago in my early teens, happened to play organized hockey

[Mr. Reynolds.]

in leagues and clubs supported and sponsored by Optimist International, and also as one who, from this side of the House, was very fortunate and enjoyed participating in the game between the members of parliament and the press corps, I want on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House who participated in that game to second the remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond Delta (Mr. Reynolds) in our gratitude to the Optimist club for its sponsorship and for inviting us to participate. It was with a great deal of pleasure that each of us received from that club a very beautiful scroll and the presentation of a medallion. Certainly my gratitude is very deep.

● (1620)

I think it may be trite to say that the disappointing or sad things that a few of our young people get involved in sometimes receive a great deal of attention in the press, and it may also be trite to say that more good publicity on their behalf is needed and deserved. While these things might be trite to say, I do not think the truth of any of them is diminished in any way. With these few remarks I add my support for the hon. member's motion.

[Translation]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the mover and tell him that we fully support his motion. I think Canadian youth well deserves to have its own week, and the government must take concrete action to show the interest attached to sports since youth sport is somehow the preparation of the future, the preparation of our athletes.

We are always proud to see a Canadian team able to face other competitors in true sportsmanship. I do not want to delay at all the passage of this motion, and I simply want to say that we are very proud that it was introduced before the House. We support it.

[English]

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) and other hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). It is good to see that he has reached his second childhood and is with us once more.

I think that I may be more appreciative of this becoming a motion rather than a bill than some hon. members. A bill is something like building for the future, and the young people today do not think that way. Some of them are saying, "I have seen the future and it will not work". That is not a bad thought because it means they are going to do something here and now about the future. They are not going to have five, ten or twenty year plans, but are setting about changing their world now and in a very successful way.

We should not forget, Madam Speaker, that boys and girls are just men and women in the cocoon. Any of us here may one day face one of them as a banker and try to borrow money from that banker, or may face one of them as a lawyer. One of the girls may be the person who comes into the room to put a large white funnel over my head, or indeed she may even be the surgeon. We have to face the fact that they are the future.