

consider referring this matter to committee, or to include it in the upcoming revisions to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

I listened as my hon. friend, the Hon. Member for Moncton (Mr. McCauley), addressed the fact of adoption, but in my opinion I do not believe he addressed the discrimination which now exists. I do not believe this is a partisan issue. I do not believe it is something on which political Parties will rise or fall. I just believe it is something which the House should make right for adoptive parents. We should hurdle the red tape and the bureaucrats in this case. We should do what is right.

I would urge upon the Government to reconsider and reopen the Unemployment Insurance Act so that adoptive parents can have the same rights as natural parents, and that the present discrimination which exists under the Unemployment Insurance Act can be finished and terminated once and for all.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this opportunity to speak to the Bill introduced by the Hon. Member. I feel this is an important Bill because adoption is becoming increasingly widespread in this country, and it is only sensible to have measures that will provide effective assistance to people who are helping others by adopting a child or even several children, because in many cases, people are adopting more than one child. The concept behind Bill C-405 is clearly explained as follows:

An adopting parent should be entitled to benefits equivalent to pregnancy benefits, considering that problems faced in adoption are as great as or greater than those occurring during pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the basic concept of this Bill deserves to be supported. The problem is to find out how this piece of legislation could be implemented effectively, and I have taken the trouble to check with the Department to find out what can be done in terms of hearings for children who are adopted, and whether the measures proposed by the Hon. Member could be implemented immediately.

Mr. Speaker, this subject is not particularly new to our debates in the House of Commons. In 1980, the Canadian Human Rights Commission made a statement on the subject and said that something had to be done about—

### *Unemployment Insurance Act*

• (1750)

## THE ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Deputy Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned:

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Honour the Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, His Honour was pleased to give in Her Majesty's name the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-136, an Act respecting Small Business Investment Grants—Chapter 147.

Bill C-142, an Act to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act—Chapter 148.

• (1800)

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[Translation]

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

#### AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO ADOPTING PARENT

The House resumed consideration of the Motion of Mr. Benjamin that Bill C-405, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 (Benefits to Adopting Parent), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

**Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to comment further on Bill C-405 which was introduced by the Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin).

As I pointed out earlier, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is important because of its principle and because of the people it concerns. I think it is very important to increase the public's awareness with respect to families who adopt children and I also think the Department should be particularly concerned about this matter.