

Child Abuse

parents, for instance, by public nurseries and family workers, to help them discharge their responsibilities.

Madam Speaker, we know that most delinquent parents are parents who either have broken bounds or whose home is very unsteady following the desertion or even the imprisonment of one of the spouses, or still parents in situations where one of the spouses indulges in the use of drugs or alcohol or fails in his or her task of properly running the household.

Madam Speaker, if the government can provide additional means to allow those parents to fulfill their roles by encouraging the setting up of a day care center system, by urging the provinces to do everything within their jurisdiction in this area, by promoting the establishment of family assistance services, we will make it possible for parents, who in other circumstances could leave their children on their own, to look after them.

I would also like, Madam Speaker, to mention an initiative that seems to me to be most innovative, that is the formation of mutual assistance groups for high risk parents. I think we know about the formation of groups to help anonymous alcoholics. They operate on about the same principles, that is people helping parents faced with those situations before they become delinquents. Those groups offer parents the necessary consultation and support services to prevent negligences from happening.

And I would like to bring to the attention of this House the existence of that society because I think it is an initiative that has not yet spread throughout the country and which deserves that kind of spreading that the Canadian Conference on the Standardization of Legislation mentioned in its report of 1969. That society, Madam Speaker, is called the "Société québécoise de protection de l'enfance et de la jeunesse." It is composed of parents whose purposes are to bring together and organize the services of people wanting to work on a voluntary basis to help and protect children and youth in the province of Quebec.

Its object is to provide means and services to children or families requesting them, while defending by all possible means the rights of children, of the young and of the

family. Those parents are organized on a voluntary basis, there is a reception committee to take phone calls and reply to letters. A mobile team of men and women visit parents at home to advise them and help in the guidance of problem children or wayward or unmanageable children in a normal family and those teams provide homes whenever children have difficulties.

As you are aware, Madam Speaker, this is a relatively new public responsibility and I believe the work that the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs will be able to do will lend an effective hand to this provincial service that was established in recent years.

It is a pleasure for me to support the motion of my colleague and to urge the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Allmand) to pursue his efforts to adjust our laws to the modern context.

● (1650)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The question is on the motion, as amended, in the name of the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Call it five o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is it agreed that we call it five o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): It being five o'clock I do now leave the chair until Monday at 2 p.m.

At 4.56 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.