

Private Members' Business

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight the provisions in the bill with respect to correctional workers. In my previous role as spokesperson for the New Democratic Party on Justice and the Solicitor General I had the opportunity to meet with many correctional officers. For many years these men and women who work in many cases under very difficult conditions have been seeking the opportunity for an early retirement package. For years they have been promised the possibility of an early retirement package. Finally, at long last, we see movement toward an early retirement act for correctional workers.

I want to take this opportunity in the House to pay tribute to those men and women who do serve in the prisons of this country.

• (1900)

Certainly they have highly stressful jobs and they deserve the kind of early retirement plan that a number of other occupations have succeeded in obtaining, including air traffic controllers.

Mr. Speaker, you are signalling 7 o'clock. Perhaps the hon. member will want to return after private member's hour to respond to my comments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry but I have to interrupt the proceedings because being 7 o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 36, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

THE DISABLED

PROVISION OF SERVICES

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should convene a conference of the appropriate provincial ministers to promote the adoptions of programs that will ensure that disabled adults across Canada receive the comprehensive services they need to function in society.

Mr. Manley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. It is always very unfortunate when the rules interfere with the give and take in the question and comment time. It would be hoped that in a circumstance like this in which a member has raised questions and the reply needs to be delayed for an hour, the member would ensure he was there in order to hear the response.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member would also need to be there for me to revert to the question and comment period.

[English]

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to be able to speak to my private member's motion which has been adopted for debate this evening. Rather than repeat it, the fact that you have read the motion is sufficient.

I was motivated to bring this matter before Parliament by parents of handicapped adults, particularly the parents of a particular friend of mine by the name of John, who are faced with a bleak future for their children once they as parents are gone. It is worth pointing out that the mothers are often the remaining parent left to cope with the resulting extreme hardships of caring for their handicapped children. I wish to acknowledge that many services are provided for children and youth and for some younger adults. However, we quickly find that the services wane as the individual gets older.

As well, there remain certain biases against handicapped people no matter how hard we try as government to try to overcome the biases that exist in the work place. I believe the solution to this problem lies in the continued and on-going efforts that will be required by governments of all levels to ensure the rightful place of handicapped adults in our society. It likely goes without saying that in times of fiscal restraint governments of all levels cut spending. While there is a need for this, we need to ensure that those who need our help continue to receive it. Disabled adults across Canada have been experiencing a reduction in the delivery of services such as transportation and home care.

Disabled adults are an important sector of our society. They are productive and able to contribute in many ways. Unfortunately some of what we believe to be life's