

subject to a wide variety of circumstances and personal choice. Because of this, nearly every tax system follows the practice of not allowing a general deduction for transportation expenses. That was also the conclusion of the Carter Royal Commission on Taxation.

It is a difficult problem, and the solution arrived at in the Canadian income tax context is to provide a flat-rate employment expense deduction to recognize all of the many and varied personal expenses incurred by people in earning income from employment. Up to last year this deduction was 3 per cent of a taxpayer's income up to a maximum \$250. For this year that maximum allowance has been doubled to \$500.

I would urge that the committee to be set up to study the special needs of handicapped and disabled persons take a fresh look at this area of transportation. Increasing importance is being given to the desire and ability of the handicapped to get into the work force where they can play a very beneficial role in society. Many adjustments have to be made. I know a number of handicapped people who drive cars and who have had to spend tremendous amounts of money getting hand controls set up in their automobiles. I think this whole matter should be looked at again with a view to providing legitimate tax deductions related to the transportation needs of the handicapped.

It is a pleasure for me to support this motion and I urge all hon. members to endorse its passage.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I must make a small contribution to this debate because of my long-standing interest in the subject of services for the handicapped. It is not my intention at all to delay the proceedings. The contributions which have been made to the debate so far make it clear there is a consensus that this motion should receive the approval of the House.

The reason I want to contribute to the debate is that my name has been associated with the proposed select committee which will be set up to study the services available to the disabled and the handicapped and to bring in a report as soon as possible for the improvement of those services and for provisions to meet the special needs of the handicapped. There has been some skepticism associated with the proposal. In fact, some speakers have expressed their skepticism here this afternoon. The CBC in its wisdom on a recent "Cross-Country Check-Up" program posed the question to the Canadian public: "Do you think the disabled deserve more than a parliamentary committee?" Of course, that question met with a very positive response: the disabled do need more than a parliamentary committee.

I think it should be pointed out that there are so many gaps in meeting the needs of the disabled that it is imperative a special select committee be brought together so that we can realize the whole program, meet the special problems of transportation and housing, education and even civil liberties which pose themselves for the handicapped. The last-named aspect is one which is under active consideration by the Human Rights Commission at the present time. I have been in

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correspondence with the commission for some time and I have received an assurance from the head of the commission, who used to be a member of this House, that the time for action is now. I point out that the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark), as will be seen from the Speech from the Throne, has emphasized that the civil liberties of all minority groups will be respected, and this, of course, includes the handicapped.

There is another comment I should like to make with respect to accessibility to this chamber and other parliamentary facilities. I have already been in touch with Your Honour pointing out that this is a matter which is long overdue. It is within the purview of the committee on internal management. Certainly there should be parking places available to people who are limited in their mobility and again I have the assurance that there will be early action to deal with this problem. It underlines the necessity of getting the select committee under way with the authority of this House and I hope that some time this week it will be possible to get agreement from all parties accordingly. We already have agreement from the House leader of the New Democratic Party who is looking across at me and nodding his head in approval. I trust that we shall have the same approval from the House leader of the official opposition. He is not in the House at the moment, but if there is anyone over there who can nod his head in the affirmative, any impediment toward the establishment of this committee would be removed and we could get on with this important business.

• (1730)

What the hon. member has proposed in his motion this afternoon deals with only a small part of the problem. We want to get our committee under way and we want to bring in a report as early in the New Year as possible. I urge all hon. members, while supporting the motion that we have before us, to go that one step farther and make it possible for our select committee to come to grips with all the manifest problems, some of which have been outlined here this afternoon. It is imperative, because Canada is hosting the rehabilitation national congress in Winnipeg next June. We want to have our report in with the recommendations and actions on the recommendations in preparation for that congress. The year 1981 will be the year of the disabled. I hope that out of the discussion here this afternoon will come a consensus that we get our committee under way that we get on with the long delayed response of meeting the special needs of Canada's disabled and handicapped citizens.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, I want to rise briefly in support of the motion of my colleague, the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen). I do not suppose there is a member of Parliament who has not been confronted with the problems of disabled people and how we treat them and provide for them. I hope no one will think that I have a conflict of interest because my father happens to be in the CNIB. He is a disabled person. Hardly a month goes by that I do not have some disabled person in my office. Two weeks ago a man came to my office who had his leg amputat-