

*Routine Proceedings***HOUSE MANAGEMENT**

76TH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 76th Report of the Standing Committee on House Management, on the membership of the Legislative Committee on Bill C-112.

Pursuant to Standing Order 113(1), this report is deemed adopted when laid upon the table.]

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*English*]

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-418, an act to amend the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed adopted.

Mr. McCreath: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to make a few brief remarks on the introduction of this bill.

The pensions of members of Parliament have been the subject of much discussion and a certain amount of mischief in recent years. Notwithstanding the mischief makers the Canadian public must realize that a readily accessible pension plan is a quid pro quo to the attraction of high calibre mid-career Canadians other than independently wealthy Canadians to leave their careers to serve as members of Parliament.

What is legitimately objectionable to the public is the notion that a person can come here early in adult life, serve a few years, and then leave to pursue another career while drawing a parliamentary pension potentially for several decades.

It is this problem that is addressed by the proposed legislation. It would simply indicate that parliamentary pensions cannot be drawn until the recipient reaches the age of 55. Its application would be to all persons including current incumbents elected to the next and subsequent Parliaments.

• (1510)

I recognize that a private member's bill is largely a symbolic act. However, if we as members are to be responsive to the public, we must be prepared to openly address these issues. As for myself, I believe we need a total review of pensions in Canadian society. All too often people are locked into careers by their pension arrangements that they would sooner leave. Others have no pensions at all.

I believe it is time for a mandatory, universally portable, individual pension scheme for Canadians that would apply equally for all Canadians including members of Parliament.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Mr. McCreath moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the petitioners call upon the government to ensure that on French and English radio and television, steps are taken to minimize the use of inappropriate language in programs and thus reduce the occurrence of violence.

[*English*]

They really believe that much of the language and acts of violence on radio and television is in fact counterproductive to what people are trying to do in terms of the models they have set up for their families. They ask the government, indeed all parliamentarians, to reduce it and to remove it if at all possible.