

*Family Week*

cost a bit of time. The special needs of children brings to mind a quotation I would like to read, as follows:

- If a child lives with criticism he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement he learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise he learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness he learns justice.
- If a child lives with security he learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship he learns to find love in the world.

Some of us can take a lesson from this. People like you and I, sir, should strive to spend a little more time each day with our children. We should spend time together alone to get to know each other on a one to one basis.

I suppose there are some people who do not like hunting, but just this past Saturday I had a great experience in taking my 19-year-old son out hunting for the first time in his life. We went deep into the wilderness and I explained to him what to look for. My son was successful because I was there to assist him, to guide him, and to encourage him by telling him he could do it. This is what parents are for and this is what we, as parliamentarians, should be encouraging every citizen of Canada to do. Children need support, encouragement and praise. We must learn to congratulate each other, to support and appreciate others. We must show that we care, rather than just give lip service. We have to mean what we say or it means nothing.

A parent must set rules to live by so a child will learn the boundaries acceptable to the family and to society, but those rules should be enforced in a loving manner. A child who has no guidelines or standards, like the people out on the street, the criminals, has to be told not to do certain things. In many cases the first time such a child is told he should not do something is on his first day of school.

It is going to take the efforts of clergymen, policemen, social workers, and all of us working together in families to turn this thing around and make it more acceptable to us all. A child who has no guidelines and no standards to live by is constantly at a loss and has little regard for values since he feels no one cares for him. Mr. Speaker, you know what I am talking about when I remind you of the look in the eyes of a young child when you tell him or her that you love them. How many times have you disciplined your children, as I have, sir, with the child looking up and asking if you love him or her? You know the feeling that you see come over that little person when you respond in the affirmative. That is what being a parent is, Mr. Speaker. That is what loving is and that is understanding our children. Many adults could take a lesson from what I am saying.

● (1750)

Beginning in the early 1900s our society became more individualistic and more competitive with the accent placed on

[Mr. Ferguson.]

“I” rather than on “we”. We became a society on the move, whether it was moving across the city, from one city to another, or from one province to another, with little or no consideration given to the employee, and none to the children or the wife of the employee. That must change.

I served in an organization where, three or four days before a move from one province or city to another, you were advised that you were being moved, and you packed up and you moved. This is still going on in society. I would encourage the government and, particularly business and labour, to sit down together and work out a system whereby there would be concern, not only for the employee, but for the employee's family. If this takes place in an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding, certainly productivity will increase, and certainly it will help prevent marriage breakdowns.

The time for this to take precedence in our society is long over due. We must give support to a family before the marriage breaks down. Millions of dollars are spent trying to bring the groups together. Is it so difficult for trained people who are out in the field, such as policemen, clergymen, social workers, doctors, and other professionals, to try to do something about this situation? Prevention is better than a cure. The cure is just too costly, and it cannot be accomplished. The family should be supported in the traditional sense, but the single parent family has special needs which are becoming greater every day. Many of us are unable to cope with and understand what these needs are. It is necessary to change from the individualistic approach that now affects our society to one that favours a workable group approach, one with love, understanding, determination, and a vision for hard work, as well as a will that things can happen for good.

We must establish a feeling of confidence in doing things of a positive nature. I suppose the greatest shock to my system in coming to this House of Commons was listening to some members and their feelings of negativity. I have never accepted that word. I have never accepted that things cannot be done. There is nothing in me that is negative, and I do not want my family to have a feeling of negativity. Nor do I want anyone in Canada to be associated with this kind of approach, because we will not succeed; we will fail. The family, and the country as you and I have known it, Mr. Speaker, worked for it and understood it, will not continue. Then we will be in real trouble, and we do not want that to happen.

I do not feel that we should set aside one particular period on our calendar to remember such an important part of our society, and I say that with all sincerity. I feel that we should concentrate on the needs of the family all year round, every day, every week and every month, and that the rights of children and parents should be recognized every day. That is my mission, and that is my determination, that is my desire, and while I am here in the House of Commons working for every Canadian, it will be one of my prime goals.

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I want to add my congratulations to the other hon. members who congratulated my good friend the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) on his initiative in