

Also, Mr. Speaker, the government has made specific commitments concerning mental retardation. Recognizing that the mentally handicapped should have the right to cast their votes at federal elections, the government is considering how it could grant them this right without their being taken advantage of or jeopardizing the integrity of the electoral system. Early in 1986, the government will introduce amendments to the Criminal Code to remove any possibility of handicapped people not being entitled to equal protection and benefits before the law.

● (1700)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-76, An Act respecting the operation of the Toronto Island Airport by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners—Chapter No. 10.

Bill C-65, An Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act and other Acts in consequence thereof—Chapter No. 11.

Bill C-70, An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973—Chapter No. 12.

Bill C-55, An Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976—Chapter No. 13.

Bill C-85, An Act to amend the Petroleum Incentives Program Act—Chapter No. 14.

Bill C-100, An Act to amend the Army Benevolent Fund Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the Pension Act, the Veterans' Land Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act—Chapter No. 15.

Bill C-255, An Act to impose reporting requirements with respect to public pension plans and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof—Chapter No. 16.

Bill C-101, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1986—Chapter No. 17.

Bill C-102, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1987—Chapter No. 18.

Motions

● (1710)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

EQUALITY RIGHTS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Robinson:

That the First Report of the Subcommittee on Equality Rights of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, presented to the House on Friday, October 25, 1985, be concurred in.

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Speaker, I hope the interruptions will be as pleasant every time I speak, and I wish to thank my hon. friends.

Mr. Speaker, I will now proceed with the last part of my speech.

Furthermore, as far as pensions are concerned, the Government has taken concrete action. For instance, Bill C-90, the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985, which the Government introduced in the House, contained measures that would allow men and women retiring under the same circumstances to receive the same pension.

The same Bill would also allow part-time workers earning at least 35 per cent of maximum annual pensionable earning for the purposes of the Canada Pension Plan, to contribute to the employer's pension plan.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, according to an agreement concluded with the provinces, in 1986 the Government will table legislation providing for automatic sharing of benefits acquired under the Canada Pension Plan, in the case of marriage breakdown.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore find it hard to understand how, in the light of these commitments, anyone could accuse the Government of failing to take concrete action to make equality a reality. It is precisely because this Government recognizes the importance of its commitments that it wants to ensure they are implemented in an effective and consistent manner.

[English]

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Cadieux), is it the intent of the Government to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act, as was requested by the Equality Rights Committee unanimously, to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination?

[Translation]

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I might not quote the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) properly on that issue. I would therefore refer my colleague to the official report of the debates of the House where he will find the eloquent answer of