

S. O. 31

[English]

Madam Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time? By unanimous consent, now?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I would like to ask the House, if members wish to speak on third reading, to postpone it until after Question Period. We will proceed with third reading immediately after Routine Proceedings.

It being 11 o'clock a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(5) the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Madam Speaker, must Canadians continue with the deadly game of beggar thy neighbour? Must Canada be torn apart by wistful gazing in a neighbour's backyard? Must Canadians continue to use the me too syndrome to drag positive announcements into the political quagmire?

Legitimate government assistance for economic and other development is not a ping-pong game. Nor can we enter into a game of cheque book confederacy.

I could stand here today and reiterate and regurgitate millions upon millions of dollars of economic aid that my province has received courtesy of the federal government over the past six months. I will not do so.

I stand today secure in the knowledge that I reflect the views of my constituents and indeed of Manitobans when I say that what is good for one region is good for the nation and that we are beyond the petty politics of regionalism.

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MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, mental illness affects more Canadians than any other illness including heart disease and cancer.

However, the government currently spends a maximum of 15 per cent of health care funds on mental health care.

Despite the federal government's commitment of November 1989 to redress this imbalance, transfer payments to hospitals were frozen in February of this year.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, a rebalancing of funding could be arranged through the Canada Assistance Plan with guidelines for community health programs.

While the government has been moving toward a community based mental health care system, it has done so without providing the funding needed to maintain mental health care in this manner.

Canadians do not need another report to tell them how to solve these problems. Canadians want action now. I urge this government to put its money where its mouth is and strike a balance between mental health care needs and health care spending.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, the youth of Canada have more at stake in our constitutional discussions than any one of us and they are prepared to contribute.

In response to my invitation, last weekend representatives of six high schools gave up a Saturday to discuss and debate the proposals for a renewed Canada. These young Canadians, three from each school, shared an intelligent, mature approach to the issues and passed 24 resolutions which I have forwarded to the minister of constitutional affairs.

The ideas we hear from youth and our more mature constituents deserve to be shared in a more open fashion. I would call on the government House leader to find a way for us as MPs to present publicly the position and the ideas that we are hearing in our constituencies.

I would suggest that we dedicate a significant block of time in this House to let each of us express our views and those of our constituents on the public record.

There will never be a more important issue for us to discuss and there is no more fitting place for that than on the floor of the House of Commons.