

with someone over them telling them what to do, it becomes their task. Within a short period they become rehabilitated and can go out to work. There is a program where these people work in these gardens. They know their area of the garden and they take pride in bringing it on. These people work in a calm surrounding where they do their own thing.

An invitation was sent out to people of all political backgrounds, as well as those involved in the community, to attend a dance in a small centre last Saturday evening. They had Colonel Sanders' chicken and an open, pay bar for those who wanted a drink. The admission was \$2.50. Among those attending were persons being rehabilitated as well as those who work in the hospital in nursing and social services. Even the young people who clean the wards were in attendance. There were also businessmen there who were willing to take those who had completed the garden project into the normal work force. We were actually being made to feel part of the scene by the people who were being rehabilitated.

This is the most important thing we can face in this life. We always think we should bring along our children; we feel we should pave the way for them; we feel we should show them the bright prospects as well as the dangers down the road. We must look after those in our country who are disabled for one reason or another, whether it be physically or mentally. We should be prepared to say; "My God; here are our brothers and our sisters. Let us walk forward with them because we need them and we need their help."

● (1750)

[Translation]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I rise at this point to speak for a few minutes only, because I firmly believe the motion should pass this afternoon. This is a subject in which I am deeply involved. I wish to commend its sponsor for introducing it today. Of course we received no notice of it. This is why I have no wish, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), that the carrying of the motion be presented by prolonged debate.

What is requested here is simply that the government establish a mixed committee to study once more the problems of the disabled social security efforts should concentrate on services adapted to the disabled and more human treatment. Placement especially should be studied; it seems at this point, Mr. Speaker, that studies should be brought to a halt. Emphasis should be put on looking at the facts. I believe that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) deserves commendation, because the trend is more and more to the practical side. All the disabled ask for is an opportunity to live their lives, to work, to earn their living, to try and live as normally as everyone else. I find evidence of that in my constituency, where a sheltered workshop has been in existence for some years. We benefited from some LIP projects, and we often took part in the minister's demonstration project. I mention the fact only to remind the minister that he promised these projects would become permanent. We had once again this year a splendid LIP project to submit for the disabled in my area. It was

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turned down by the provincial government for the reason that there was another project. We immediately thought of the project the minister had promised to bring in on a permanent basis. We wish that this project be permanent for this group of disabled persons. I believe the situation is the same throughout Canada: we have been waiting for two or three months. These disabled have nothing more to lose because the LIP project was turned down, and I urge the government to continue its move forward. Studies are a good thing. So is the establishment of a committee, but I am not overly confident on studies at this point. What is needed is practical moves, action. What I want is industries, housing needed by the disabled, but above all jobs that will allow them to live as any other Canadian. When I saw these handicapped people work, I was amazed at the fine pieces of work they could do.

I talked to these people who are happy to be alive. A number of young ones told me: "Sir, we are just starting to live."

I hope the minister will listen to these appeals and provide these people with jobs on a year round basis and help them live like all other Canadians.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for York South (Mrs. Appolloni).

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): On a point of order, I wonder whether I might ask the hon. member for York South (Mrs. Appolloni) to give up the precious right to speak so that there might be time, in the name of the handicapped of the country, to take a decision on this important matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not think such a request is in accordance with our practice. An hon. member may move that another member be heard, but that is a different matter.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): We just want to get to a vote, that's all.

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken several times in this House regarding the needs and aspirations of the handicapped. A private members' bill—alas, far down on the order paper—appears in my name. I am humbly grateful to be able, now, to speak on this motion.

Some years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was paralysed. It is a sobering thought to realize that if I had been elected at that time it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me to take my seat, since I could not have manoeuvred my wheelchair into this chamber. Indeed, had it not been for the grace of God and the indefatigable efforts of skilled doctors, I would not even have been able to go the visitors' gallery. On that point, I am saddened to see only three wheelchairs in the gallery today; thank God three of them made it. We might start putting our own house in order by building a ramp so that the handicapped could visit that gallery, or any others if they want to, without having to perform acrobatics.