

Routine Proceedings

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I appreciate the comments of hon. members, but once again, the Chair has no choice but to apply the Standing Orders, and I recognize the hon. member for Beaches—Woodbine.

First, however, the Opposition House Leader has the floor.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Chair is in a delicate position, but nevertheless, the NDP House Leader did suggest that we hear one speaker from each party. I think you would find that this proposal would meet with the unanimous consent of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Does the House agree with this proposal?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I therefore recognize the mover of the motion, the hon. member for Beaches—Woodbine.

[*English*]

Mr. Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, I am quite surprised that even the motion itself caused some controversy. We happen to be talking about over three million Canadians who have a disability of one form or another. I would have thought the House would have welcomed an opportunity to say a few words not only about the report of the committee itself, but also of the response from the government to that report.

The committee report I referred to is the second report of the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons. It is entitled *The Consensus for Action for the Economic Integration of Disabled Persons*.

This report in a very clear, concise, unambiguous way reflects the frustration, impatience and even the anger of the disabled population in this country. I have been on this committee for some 10 years, since its inception, and it is the first time that I have sensed that deep sense of frustration among that important segment of Canada's population.

What this support does, Mr. Speaker, is not only offer an analysis of what the problems are in terms of government policy, or the lack of it, but it offers very concrete ways in which we can get at these problems. In

that respect, this report has a very short list of six recommendations. It is not a wish list. It is not a shopping list. It is six very clear, concrete recommendations on what should happen between now and next June, National Access Awareness Week. It is as simple as that. It is not a very complicated report. It is very blunt. It is very clear, and it deserves a much more full response from the government than what we got a week or so ago on November 6.

Mr. Speaker, after reading the government's response I really wonder whether the people who wrote that response had even read the report. If they had read it, they certainly did not understand what that report was saying, or what the disabled community in Canada have been saying to this committee, this government, provincial governments, municipal governments and regional governments over the years. This report was not by way of giving advice to the government. It was a report to urge the government to take action over inequities that have existed within this community for at least the last 10 or 11 years since the *Obstacles* report first identified these problems. That was the purpose of that report.

We have had advice coming out of our ears over the last 10 or so years and this report did not have to give any other further advice. The advice is there for anyone to see. The advice is contained in the *Obstacles* report, in the *Obstacles* progress report, in the report *Surmounting Obstacles*, it is in the *National Policy on Transportation of the Disabled*, which by the way was adopted by this Parliament in 1983. It was the *Abella* report, Mr. Speaker, which you will recall dealt with employment opportunities. It was dealt with in the all-party report again, *Equality for All*. I could on and on about the countless reports and documentation that has been presented to this House.

I would be the last one to argue that there have not been some changes made in the last 10 or 11 years since the *Obstacles* report came out. However, I would make the argument that an awful lot of these changes have been marginal at best and very many have been cosmetic. There have been cosmetic changes and very marginal. That, again, is unfortunate and indeed sad.

In the government's response to this latest report, and especially to the six recommendations, they made a positive response on one and that is welcomed; that is to