

*Adjournment Motion***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott, Victoria-Haliburton): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet)—Public Works—Status of Guy Favreau complex; the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grace (Mr. Allmand)—Northern Affairs—Settlement of aboriginal land claim; the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett)—External Affairs—Foreign aid expenditures for coming year.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions and public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott, Victoria-Haliburton): Motion No. 3, the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korczynski). Shall the item stand, by unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

Mr. David Kilgour (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): If it please Your Honour, could we agree to adjourn all the other notices of motions by unanimous consent, or perhaps you have just done that?

Mr. Knowles: There is only one and we did it.

Mr. Kilgour: Could we deal, by unanimous consent, with notice of motion No. 5 standing in the name of the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1700)

INCOME TAX

ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN
DISABLED

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of amending Interpretation Bulletin IT-225, paragraph 2 of the Income Tax Act, to provide

[Mr. Peters.]

(a) that a deduction of \$1,000 annually, adjusted to an indexed cost of living clause, may be claimed from taxable income by an individual who is so sufficiently disabled that he cannot attend to his own personal needs or whose mobility is considerably restricted throughout any twelve month period ending in the year;

(b) that such deduction may also be claimed by a taxpayer who is totally blind at any time in the year; and

(c) that to whatever extent the amount is not required to reduce the disabled taxpayer's taxable income, his or her spouse or supporting parent or guardian may make the deduction.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I trust that this motion will receive the consent of the House. I have discussed the matter with members of the former government who are generally disposed to agree with it. I have also discussed it with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who has said that he would be in favour of the House passing this kind of motion. I have mentioned to the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) that the government is also disposed to accepting this motion.

As hon. members know, the government has already taken the position that we do want to help the handicapped in a way they have never been helped before. That is why the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) has already tabled a motion asking that a special committee be set up to study the needs of the handicapped, and it is why I take part in bringing this motion forward.

Since Mr. Speaker has already read the motion, I should point out how the bulletin reads at present because it is germane to an understanding of what my motion is all about. The operative phrase in this particular interpretation bulletin reads basically that a handicapped person is one who is confined for a substantial period of time each day throughout any twelve-month period in the year to a bed or a wheelchair. That is sheer lunacy. That kind of definition of a handicapped person is so narrow as to be insulting to the people who need this kind of care. That kind of regulation is designed not to help the handicapped but to help the income tax officials who have to make decisions regarding whether or not certain people are entitled to those benefits. It is not designed to help the handicapped. That is why I have brought this motion forward.

In my constituency I have one organization called the Variety's Treatment Centre for Children which has children from over 300 parents who come for help. Many are confined to a bed or a wheelchair, but some of them are not. As a matter of fact, across Canada there are many parents who are looking after their children who are not confined to a bed or wheelchair at all during the day, but who nevertheless need constant care. I say that the wording of that bulletin was done by an official looking after himself, not after the needs of the handicapped.

I point out also that the bulletin as it is today does not deal with the problem. I say that the people affected by this bulletin are not the historic kind of income tax evaders. These are not people who are looking for loopholes in the law. These are people looking for help. They are the good, responsible people of our society, not ones who are copping out of their responsibilities.