

Adjournment Debate

Today in Canada there are approximately 30 couples coming within the prohibited degree of relationship. As similar legislation has failed to pass in previous Parliaments when Parliament prorogued or dissolved, it is certainly my hope that you will find disposition in the House when the question is put that members would unanimously support this bill.

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak just a very few words to follow my hon. friend in connection with Bill S-14 which has come to the House of Commons after many years, approaching seven or eight years of attempts to create a bill which would improve the general law dealing with the prohibition of marriage for individuals who are related at various degrees.

My friend has mentioned that 30 or so couples are waiting pending a resolution of this bill in the House of Commons and in the Senate. It appears as though the many years of waiting have been worth it and we on this side of the House are pleased to acknowledge the work of the several individuals in the Senate and the House of Commons who have finally made this bill a reality and will firm up the federal government's jurisdiction in the field of marriage.

We are pleased to support this bill at third reading.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I would like to seek unanimous consent of the House at this time, as I see that members are present, to call it six o'clock and to proceed with the adjournment motion.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

In accordance with Standing Order 38, a motion to adjourn the House is deemed to have been moved.

FOOD BANKS

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, on October 16, 1989, I rose in the House and put a question to the Minister of Finance on the matter of poverty. The question pointed out that the Vancouver food bank provides 3,200 bags of food weekly; Edmonton's food bank feeds 11,000 people each month; Regina's food bank provides 5,500 meals, and 6,000 boxes of food a month come from Regina's food bank; and Toronto's food bank feeds 84,000 people a week. A Montreal study shows that one in five kids are hungry in this country. Food banks in Canada are becoming institutionalized.

I asked the minister if he was planning to wait until food banks in Canada bar their doors to force this government to act or is the government going to provide adequate financial support for Canada's hungry.

The response was:

—during the course of the last five years we have demonstrated—

We, meaning the government.

—a very clear commitment to addressing the problems of those in lower income brackets.

The minister went on to say:

Let me enumerate some of these matters.

He said, referring to the government again:

We have increased the size of the child tax credit quite significantly from what it was in 1984. We were the first government to bring in the refundable sales tax credit. That sales tax credit has been increased on two occasions since its introduction in 1986.

He also went on to talk about:

—changes that resulted in 850,000 low income Canadians being put in a position where they would not have to pay tax—

So, in each of these three areas he feels that the government has addressed the problems and the cause of poverty in this country.