

*Private Members' Business*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Mr. Caccia:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry but I cannot recognize the hon. member. He is not properly dressed.

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, the government has no intention of calling any further business until 5.12 p.m. I wonder if the Chair might suspend the sitting until 5.12 p.m. to allow Private Members' Hour to start then. However we can start now; whatever is the wish of the House.

SITTING SUSPENDED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it the wish of the House to suspend the sitting until 5.12 p.m.?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 5 p.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 5.12 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It being 5.12 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS

[English]

### BILL OF RIGHTS

#### SUGGESTED CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION

The House resumed from Tuesday, December 12, 1989 consideration of the motion of Ms. Langan:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of negotiating with the provinces to provide a comprehensive Bill of Rights for children which would standardize laws through the country, and that this Bill of Rights include a child protection commission and an emergency hot line which children could contact in times of crisis.

**Mr. Allan Koury (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to be the lead-off speaker in this fourth hour of debate on Motion M-254, suggesting a bill of rights for children.

Again I wish to thank the hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam for placing this motion before the House, a motion which focuses on protecting the rights of our children. No one can deny they are Canada's most important resource.

As I alluded to in the debate last December, a number of developments have taken place with regard to families and children since the hon. member initially tabled her motion. Most important, of course, is the recent adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The convention covers a wide spectrum of children's rights and as such fully satisfies that part of the motion before the House which speaks to the need for a comprehensive bill of rights for children.

In this regard this convention is intended to establish a modern, international standard for addressing the social, economical, political, religious, cultural and civil rights of children all over the world.

As well, the convention provides for the protection of children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and the protection of children with disabilities and the protection of children without families.

The list of possible initiatives deriving from the convention are many and would include, for example, support for an emergency hot line for children which was mentioned in Motion M-254 and which in fact has been the object of a recent federal grant for start-up costs. In this regard last fall the federal government pledged \$1.3 million toward the start-up costs for an emergency hot line, the Kids' Help Line, which offers counselling information and if appropriate referral service to Canada's seven million children.

Since May of last year, the Kids' Help Line has received over 70,000 calls. The convention, through Article 27, also speaks to the rights of every child to an