

For us to act otherwise would be to demonstrate that we do not fully realize the importance of our forests for the future of our nation.

How could the Federal Government manage otherwise and fully participate in this country's major industry?

The major steps which the interested parties can take under the direction and with the participation of the Department include the development of higher standards for the intensive management of productive forests in Canada. Such standards would permit the development of management plans integrating the important ecological role of the forests, good conservation practices and a diversified utilization of this resource.

The Department should play a determining role in the establishment of a consensus between the partners on the manner to achieve the sustainable development of all our regions.

The Department may contribute—

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have 11 minutes left in his speech plus 10 minutes questions and comments when we start debate the next day.

[Translation]

It being 5 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

BILL OF RIGHTS

SUGGESTED CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam) moved:

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 throughout the country, and that this Bill of Rights include a child protection commission and an emergency hotline which children could contact in times of crisis.

Private Members' Business

She said: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak in anticipation today that my colleagues on all sides of the house will agree with the spirit of the motion that I present today.

Motion M-254 reads and I will repeat it even though the Speaker has spelled it out for us:

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 throughout the country, and that this Bill of Rights include a child protection commission and an emergency hotline which children could contact in times of crisis.

I want to speak today about the intent of this motion. During the remaining four hours of debate on this votable motion, my New Democrat colleagues will expand on our position on a comprehensive bill of rights for children. In the world view, Canada is a country without equal when it comes to a tradition of social justice. Canada has always been a leading nation in speaking out for human rights, the dignity of the person and on behalf of democracy.

Canada has seldom been found wanting in speaking out for the protection of the world's children. Our reputation is outstanding. Our own social contract within our own boundaries is the envy of the world. Indeed, Canada is one of the leading countries of preference for those wishing to immigrate. For these reasons I ask members to give favourable consideration to the motion.

In the past, a number of private members' bills have been presented which wanted to establish federal-provincial task forces in order to negotiate legislation. They were never fully debated. The bills either languished on the Order Paper or were referred to committee where they stayed in limbo.

Events are now overtaking us. It has been 65 years since the League of Nations first adopted a declaration concerning children. It has been 30 years since the United Nations adopted its declaration of the rights of the child. It has been 10 years since the International Year of the Child.

Later this year the United Nations General Assembly, following long and difficult negotiations in the UN Commission on Human Rights, is expected to examine and hopefully adopt a convention on the rights of the child.