

## NAYS

## Members

Althouse	Angus
Assad	Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing)
Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre)	Baker
Barrett	Bellemare
Berger	Black
Blackburn (Brant)	Blondin
Boudria	Caccia
Campbell (South West Nova)	Catterall
Clancy	Copps
Crawford	Dionne
Duhamel	Ferguson
Finestone	Flis
Gagliano	Gauthier
Gray (Windsor West)	Harb
Harvard	Harvey (Edmonton East)
Hopkins	Hunter
Karppoff	Kilger (Stormont—Dundas)
Kristiansen	Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)
Lee	MacLellan
McCurdy	McLaughlin
Milliken	Mitchell
Murphy	Nault
Nunziata	Nystrom
Pagtakhan	Parent
Parker	Peterson
Phinney	Proud
Rideout	Riis
Robinson	Speller
Stupich	Vanclief
Wappel	Whittaker
Young (Beaches—Woodbine)—61	

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS

[English]

### HEALTH

#### ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of studying the effects of electro-magnetic fields created by high voltage power lines on human and animal health and reporting the findings to the House.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the issue of electro-magnetic fields created by high voltage power lines and its effect on human and animal health is one of some interest to

### Private Members' Business

Canadians wherever they live when their residences are located near these power lines.

In researching this issue I found that in 1984 the World Health Organization produced a report which concluded that "it would be prudent in the present state of scientific knowledge not to make unqualified statements about the safety of intermittent exposure to electric fields".

The report also indicated: "It is recommended that efforts be made to limit exposure, particularly of members of the general population, to levels as low as can be reasonably achieved". You can see how carefully worded the conclusions of the WHO report are.

In September 1986 we discovered that the New York State health department launched some 16 studies to investigate possible links between high voltage lines and cancer among children living near such power lines. The conclusion of these studies were published in July 1987 and indicated that children with leukaemia or brain cancer are more likely than healthy children to be living in homes where the exposure to the magnetic fields generated by electric power lines is high.

In addition to the increased risk of childhood cancer, the study suggested that exposure to a magnetic field causes behavioural changes in laboratory animals. However, the researchers noted that they could not explain the higher incidence of cancer and that the study did not establish a direct cause and effect link.

In Canada this issue had some repercussions among the population in September, 1985. At that time Ontario proposed a 500-kilovolt line through a part of Canada known as Bridlewood. The line would follow an existing 230-kilovolt right-of-way which passed closed to two parks and a new primary school. The New York State study results, when they were subsequently made public, caused a considerable amount of anxiety, and understandably so, among the families living in Bridlewood.

• (1720)

Ontario Hydro argued then and still does that there is no health hazard posed by its high voltage lines, with good reason, because if a link were to be found the implications for all utilities are enormous.