

Children's Rights

region. I understand that evaluation of the project is due to take place shortly and those of us who have taken an interest in these matters will be following it closely. I am told that a unified family court pilot project has been established in Hamilton, Ontario.

Mr. Dick: Time is running out!

Mr. Francis: I am sure the hon. member is just as anxious as I am to have a good debate on this subject. I think the debate so far has been inadequate. It is a debate which should be repeated on more than one occasion.

Mr. Leggatt: Why not send the subject to the committee where it could be discussed at length?

Mr. Francis: The justice committee already has a number of matters to consider.

Mr. Leggatt: We are both on that committee. We shall accept the work.

Mr. Francis: I think the idea of unified family courts has a great deal to contribute to the subject before us. It relates to the whole question of what should be done to deal with marital problems arising out of child abuse, a subject which will be a recurring theme in this parliament and in parliaments to come. What I have tried to do is—

An hon. Member: Talk the bill out.

Mr. Francis: —draw attention to certain problems with which I have become acquainted as a member of parliament in this area involving child abduction, the kind of settlement which takes place when more than one court is involved in the case of marital breakdown, and the delicate question of the evolution of a law which respects a balance between the rights of the child and the rights of the family. Those who are

concerned about this subject must be aware that it will have to be debated a number of times—

Some hon. Members: Five o'clock!

Mr. McGrath: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Since the bill has received unanimous approval perhaps you would undertake not to see the clock in order that Your Honour might put the amendment in the name of my hon. friend. In that way we can get the bill before the committee for consideration in depth along the lines the hon. member for Ottawa West has suggested.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I believe we have another member who has an excellent speech to deliver on the matter but that would last until much too late. We will have other occasions to deal with this issue. The committees are already quite busy. Besides, the Progressive Conservative party complained today that they wanted to deal with the estimates in committee. They will now have this opportunity, but obviously they could not discuss this bill in committee if we agreed to the hon. member's request. Under the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, if I continue to speak it is to give my colleagues opposite the chance to shout, which will probably relieve them, but we cannot accept their request.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. Apparently there is not unanimous consent. The time provided for consideration of private members' business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 2(1), this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

At 5.02 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.