

Constitution Act, 1982

right to liberty, which is already protected in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

At the same time, I must say that there are other values and rights against which property rights must be balanced. My colleagues have noted that there are many laws created by all levels of Government in Canada which serve important societal interests but which in some way affect the use and ownership of property. Some of the provinces have been reluctant to support the entrenchment of property rights because they are afraid that the result of doing so may be to endanger these laws.

As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Okanagan-Similkameen (Mr. King), noted, women's groups are also concerned about the risk that recent family law reform may be invalidated by the courts on the basis of the right to enjoyment of property. Environmentalists are concerned that laws providing for the regulation and control of industrial wastes and emissions may be challenged on the basis that infringe on the industrial land owner's right to use their land. Environmentalists are also concerned that legislation providing for the safe-

guarding of prime agricultural land might also be at risk if property rights were to be entrenched.

None of these Governments, organizations and individuals are unalterably opposed to the entrenchment of property rights. Rather, they are concerned that we have not had the opportunity to study and consider fully the ramifications and consequences of entrenching property rights. It may be that by taking the time to deal with their apprehensions, we will be able to resolve them in a way which will produce a consensus on this matter and which will facilitate an amendment to the Constitution. In the meantime, there are a number of areas which deserve further consideration. As my colleagues have stressed, the process of constitutional reform takes time—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. The hour allotted for consideration of Private Members' Business has expired.

It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Monday, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned.
