

In the case of Bill C-204, however, it is my view that the peculiar circumstances surrounding this bill are such that its further progress should not be impeded. In fact, it has already been debated in this House during the previous session. The money implications, if not minimal, are difficult to identify, and perhaps the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), in his eloquence, may have been able to convince the Chair to that effect.

With all these things taken into account, I am ready to allow the consideration of Bill C-204, but I would caution the House that this decision is not to be considered as a precedent for similar bills in the future. With this proviso, I am ready to put the question on second reading of Bill C-204, but I would add that there are at least two bills which give great concern to the Chair, Bill C-210 and Bill C-237, because they involve public moneys, one of them hundreds of millions of dollars, and they both bear a type of clause 6 which I do question.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, were it not for your charm and graciousness in handing down your ruling, I would feel obliged to place on the record of the House the fact that you, sir, have already taken up 20 minutes of the one hour set aside by the House for this bill. I will resist that temptation excepting to say that I hope in the future it will be possible for the Chair to give these rulings before these bills come up for second reading so that they will not cut into the very precious few minutes we have in private members' hour.

You must bear in mind, sir, that these bills are drafted by the law officers of the House of Commons, the very people who advise Your Honour at the table. Having said that, I also hope that you will, like Admiral Nelson at Trafalgar, cast a blind eye to the clock when it comes six o'clock so that some of my colleagues will be able to make a contribution to this debate.

I will not make a speech because this bill was debated in the House in the last session on May 12, 1978. I would simply refer hon. members to page 5390 in the May 12 issue of *Hansard*. I will not repeat the statements I put on the record at that time, except to bring the House up to date on what has happened since then.

This is the fourth occasion that I have had the honour of presenting to this House a bill dealing with the rights of children, the exploitation of children on television, the impact of television on children and the home, and the impact of television violence on children. I am particularly concerned with this bill which deals with the rights of children, because next year will be the International Year of the Child. It was so designated by the United Nations in 1976 in order to draw attention to the Declaration of the Rights of Children, a protocol which was accepted and signed by the member states of the U.N. 20 years ago in 1959. Canada was a signatory to that declaration.

I would refer hon. members to the protocol which is attached to the bill. Each member state of the UN was expected to establish a commission to mark the International Year of the Child and to draw to the attention of that state the

Children's Rights

obligation that it had assumed as a signatory to the protocol. The United Nations set out as its objective in establishing the International Year of the Child:

To provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children on the part of decision-makers and the public.

● (1722)

(b) to promote recognition of the fact that programs for children should be an integral part of economic and social development plans with a view to achieving, in both the long term and the short term, sustained activities for the benefit of children at the national and international levels.

We were a little late getting started, but we established our commission and in Ottawa we have a secretariat with inadequate funding. I hope that is something the government can be advised of in a more forceful way than I intend to pursue in this House.

As you have indicated, Mr. Speaker, there is a disposition by the House, by agreement, to have this bill discharged and the subject matter referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs where witnesses can be heard. I will enlarge on that later, Mr. Speaker, but I do not want to take up too much of the time of the House now. The objectives and functions in the International Year of the Child that Canada has assumed are stated as follows:

Promote observance in Canada of 1979 as International Year of the Child through the encouragement of the widespread involvement of individuals, communities and organizations in activities designed to advance the rights, interests and well-being of children in the context of their families and society.

The specific aims are set out as follows:

1. To stimulate families, communities, societal institutions, organizations, governments and all persons concerned to review the quality of childhood in their respective purviews;
2. To encourage all concerned to work together to establish long and short-term plans, programs and services aimed at strengthening the forces that enhance optimal child development and parenting;
3. To encourage the celebration of the joy of childhood and the very special place that children have in society and to create a milieu in which children's activities, creativity, imagination, ideas and thinking can be widely portrayed and demonstrated;
4. To recognize and enhance the role of parents and the art of parenting, and to find ways and means to support parenthood and the family in the Canadian society; and
5. To enhance in children the concept of their personal identity and worth as individuals belonging to a given cultural, linguistic, religious, social or ethnic group, and to the Canadian and world communities.

I thought it would be worth while to put these objectives on the record of the House of Commons.

Almost by happy coincidence with the introduction of this bill for the second time for second reading, the Canadian Council on Children and Youth issued a report of a task force which the council established in 1975 under the honorary chairmanship of Mr. Justice Emmett Hall. It was a distinguished task force representing all parts of the country, with various professional expertise in the field of children, children's rights and the family.

I had the honour of making a submission to that task force in September, 1976. It was that submission which prompted me to place this bill before the House. It was the catalyst that