

beseeking and we are not begging. We are demanding justice and we are demanding it today.

Madam Speaker, I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

Bill C-49, an Act to provide for the resumption of certain government services be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months' hence.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is five o'clock. I have put the motion to the House.

At this time, I must advise the House that I have received a written notice from the hon. member for Essex—Windsor that he is unable to move his motion during the hour of Private Members' Business on Friday, December 8, 1989.

[Translation]

Since it was not possible to switch positions on the order of precedence, in accordance with Standing Order 94, I order the clerks to move this item to the bottom of the precedence list.

[English]

The hour for Private Members' Business will thus be cancelled and pursuant to Standing Order 94, the House will continue with the business before it prior to that hour.

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]

THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The house resumed from Tuesday, October 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wenman:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider introducing legislation to fully protect the Canadian environment through the institution of mandatory environmental impact assessment procedures which would allow for assessments, prior to the construction of installations, public or private, of projects which may prove to be potentially damaging to the environment.

Private Members' Business

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to take this opportunity to address a few words to the mover of the motion, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West. I would like to bring to the attention of the members of the House that this member had the foresight to introduce a private member's bill almost a decade ago which was entitled Bill C-458. The objective of that bill was to legislate a federal environmental assessment process. His proposed environmental impact assessment act was the first initiative to make environmental assessment mandatory for all federal proposals.

Many of the concepts contained in his bill were very advanced. For example, his definition of the term "undertaking" would have expanded the scope of environmental assessment to include policies as well as projects. This broader scope for environmental assessment has only gained a wider audience in the last couple of years.

As we all know, the hon. member's motion has come at a very opportune time. He has given us a chance to consider the whole issue of environmental assessment on the very eve of the government's introduction of its own bill to reform the federal environmental assessment process. The act, and its regulations, will contain many of the features the hon. member foresaw as being necessary back in January 1979.

All members of this House and the public at large recognize that environmental issues can no longer be ignored. Twenty years ago, few of us would have predicted that the environment would become the critical issue of the latter part of the 1980s and the 1990s, as indeed it is now and will be, I think, into the next century.

Acceptance of sound environmental management is an issue which cuts across ideological lines, national boundaries and generation gaps. All anyone need do is watch the evening news. One is likely, on any given night, to see a story involving some element of environmental degradation.

On occasion, we hear reference to the attack on the earth's protective ozone layer, or perhaps there is a story on the dangers of global warming, or there is the continuing saga, which we hope will soon be addressed, of the impact of acid rain on Canada and other parts of North America. There is the question of chemicals and to what extent they are governing our day-to-day lives. There is the fact that a thousand new-made substances are appearing annually. There is the question of the six million hectares of land that become desert in each and