

Adjournment Debate

simply out of date and that we had come to an era where a legally binding instrument was the order of the day.

It has been 10 years since then that this UN convention has been in the making. There have been countless difficulties and problems that probably would have derailed a less noble venture. There was the early problem of skepticism. Drafting this new convention was also plagued initially by cold war ideological disputes, not to mention the cultural differences of participating states which periodically resulted in quite a strong difference of opinion.

The working group in which Canada was very much an active participant persisted. This perseverance has resulted in a remarkable document that itself is testament, I believe, to the international community's continuing concern for the rights of the child. That is our closest, best hope to move forward because it already represents a strong response by Canada, both federally and provincially. If we get that convention ratified this year, and Canada becomes a signatory and we bring our domestic laws into line with it, I think that a great distance will have been covered to bring the aspirations expressed here this afternoon into a reality.

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, as did the Hon. Members who just spoke, I wish to congratulate the Hon. Member for Mission—Coquitlam (Ms. Langan) for presenting this motion.

However, Mr. Speaker, I doubt I will have much time to speak in this debate.

I will give it a try, Mr. Speaker, because if any vulnerable group in our society needs the Government's protection, it is our children.

This Government, through various departments including National Health and Welfare and the Solicitor General's department, continues and will continue to live up to its commitment to protect and provide for the welfare of Canadian children.

Our commitment is straightforward and simple, Mr. Speaker. Every child in Canada should have a chance to grow up and develop into a healthy individual.

This is a very stimulating and also a very complex responsibility.

The challenge becomes even greater when we consider the needs of those who may be handicapped or otherwise disadvantaged. Everyone, Mr. Speaker, has a responsibility and a role to play: all levels of governments; educators; professionals; suppliers of services; and so forth, to ensure that our children's needs will be met.

Mr. Speaker, earlier we heard the Hon. Member for Argenteuil—Papineau (Mrs. Bourgault) explain the various programs provided by the Minister of National. In fact, I would have liked to expand on the measures proposed by the Solicitor General's department. Unfortunately, I do not have enough time.

Nevertheless, I may recall, Mr. Speaker, that there are some very important measures in this area and that this is a responsibility not just of the government but of society in general.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

• (1800)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that I did not see both members rising but the next time the bill comes in the House the hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands and the hon. member for Winnipeg North will be recognized.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to standing order 93 the order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.