

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my friend and colleague, the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, for his very kind words. Needless to say, I ought to reciprocate and comment on his distinguished service over the last eight years, both in the House and at committee. The member speaks with considerable experience, having not only represented his constituents of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell with such distinction for the last eight years, but also having represented them at Queen's Park. He knows of what he speaks. He has participated very actively behind the scenes in order to ensure that somehow we help regain some of the lost respect for this institution. No doubt the member agrees that this will assist in some small way.

I am concerned, however, that this committee report does not go far enough. I know the member commented about it. Certainly the government has to take responsibility for not going as far as we would like this report to go. It seems to me that even with the adoption of this particular report, much of the work done by hon. members at committee will go unreported and unnoticed because only one committee can be televised at a time. The House leaders, as I understand, will have to determine which of the committees is deserving of support in order to occupy the room where the television cameras will be.

Yesterday I was at a committee. It was an employment sub-committee meeting. One of my colleagues had presented a private member's motion to amend the Employment Act in order to create some fairness to the act. It seems to me that the House leaders would not agree that that particular committee ought to be televised because it is not an issue of so-called national importance. Yet it is an issue that will affect a great number of Canadians.

Can the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell respond to the fact that the government has not gone all the way in terms of the media. I know he responded in his submissions as to the reasons why the media should be allowed to go into any of the committee rooms, but would he not agree that there could be some ground rules established where the media would be restricted from going beyond a certain point in a committee room so that their cameras could enter a committee room but not go beyond say the last 10—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated. I regret the hon. member will not have time.

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise to participate in this debate this afternoon. As has been indicated by many of the previous speakers, many of my colleagues, the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and the hon. member for Saint-Léonard, I was a member of the management committee that came up with this report.

I want to say that this report in my view represents a very significant compromise on the part of the members of the committee who were very concerned that the government live up to the undertakings and obligations that it assumed when it changed the rules of this House almost a year ago.

I was privy to the negotiations that led to those rule changes. I am sure Your Honour recalls very well that the government introduced a resolution to make significant changes to the Standing Orders of this House, which motion was debated and then forced through. I believe closure was applied to the motion.

My friend from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell perhaps remembers but I think closure was applied on that motion and the government had to use almost force of arms to get these changes through the House because it would not negotiate to a conclusion on the proposed changes.

**An hon. member:** Shame on the government.

**Mr. Milliken:** It was a shame. I think there were genuine efforts made at agreement but the government was so bent on certain changes and so unwilling to continue discussions for an extended period that it ultimately came up with its own resolution and rammed a bunch of forced changes through the House.

Of course, many of these changes are being undone. In fact, one of the other motions that the parliamentary secretary wanted to debate this afternoon, which he is going to have to postpone for a while, made changes to the legislative committees. I well recall the discussion in the negotiations when we told him that these were unworkable, but he insisted that the government wanted to proceed with that any way they would work. He was going to make them work. He was going to force the