

*Point of Order*

around. Many are on vacation. Many in my riding, and I am sure this applies to other urban centres, are afraid to open their door when the enumerator knocks on the door. You can hear the television going, you can hear people talking, but because there is so much crime infiltrating our streets and our apartment buildings, they are afraid to open the door.

I recommend to this House that we look seriously at a permanent voter's list. The city of Toronto has now enumerated its voters for municipal elections via mail, and it is working quite well. I think through mail and through a permanent voters' list, we will avoid this nonsense.

I am looking at this bill to determine how serious this government is about parliamentary reform. I congratulate the member for Don Valley West for bringing this bill forward, a bill with which all individual members can agree. If we all in this Chamber right here agree that it is a good bill, let us pass it. Let us get on with it and let us do it.

If the government is going to block this bill, then the government is not serious about parliamentary reform. Regardless of what the Electoral Commission is doing and what it reports, fine, this does not take away from it. Here is a piece of legislation that a private member is bringing into help the electoral process. Let us support it. Let us not talk it out or whatever.

I again ask the people on the government side: how serious are they with parliamentary reform? If they are serious, they will support this bill, the way I heard from my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, the way I heard from the Official Opposition, the Liberal Party, and the way I have heard from some individual Conservative members.

[*Translation*]

SITTING SUSPENDED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Since no more members wish to speak, the time for consideration of private members' business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the item is dropped from the Order Paper. The House suspends its proceedings until noon.

Sitting suspended at 11.49 a.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 12 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** It being 12 o'clock p.m. pursuant to order made Friday, October 25, 1991, the House will now proceed to the daily routine of business under the heading Introduction of Government Bills.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Danis, seconded by—

**Mr. Gauthier:** It would take another minister.

\* \* \*

[*English*]

POINT OF ORDER

BILL C-40

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there is no minister here to second the bill, perhaps what we could do is suspend the sitting of the House for 20 minutes to a half hour in order to get a seconder for this particular bill and give us an opportunity to peruse the contents of the bill, which we have just seen by the way, for the very first time.

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I think under the circumstances, considering that this bill is very important to the Canadian people and to members of the House of Commons, you will find there is ample precedence for me to second the bill and that you should be able to proceed with it.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** On the same point of order, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I cannot agree if there is no other minister in the House to support a resolution which the government considers important. I find it absolutely unacceptable!

[*English*]

We will not accept that. We want to see this bill properly supported by the government in power, not by a parliamentary secretary. As far as I am concerned it is only fair to the opposition members if you want good,