

Government Orders

Mr. Speaker, so far, according to my references, prorogation—I will try to be as clear as I can—means that the government, with the consent of the Queen, decides to end a session of Parliament. All business is therefore suspended.

Usually, when the government decides to prorogue, this means it has exhausted its agenda and does not want to continue. What we have before us now is a government that prorogued the House, in other words, it decided to drop the proposed legislation mentioned in Motion No. 1, Bills C-58, C-73, C-78, C-82 and C-85 of this Parliament's second session.

Mr. Speaker, all the authorities I consulted, including Erskine May and Beauchesne, agree—I will read a few because I think it would be useful to know exactly what we are talking about. Erskine May:

[*English*]

“The effect of prorogation is at once to terminate all the current business of Parliament, not only the sitting of Parliament at an end, but all proceedings pending at the time are quashed except impeachments by the Commons and appeals by the House of Lords”. And it goes on. All items are quashed.

We could go on to Beauchesne's. Beauchesne's is a little more explicit on prorogation.

[*Translation*]

Effect of prorogation and adjournment

Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, citation 167.

(1) The effect of a prorogation is at once to suspend all business until Parliament shall be summoned again. Not only are the sittings of Parliament at an end, but all proceedings pending at the time are quashed. Every bill must therefore be renewed after a prorogation, as if it were introduced for the first time.

What we have before the House, Mr. Speaker, is a motion that is faulty because it is inaccurate. Bill C-73 was reinstated with the unanimous consent of the House and has been withdrawn. The government did not remove the reference to this bill. My colleagues who spoke earlier mentioned this, and I think it is an important point to consider when the Chair will be asked to rule on this matter, Mr. Speaker.

• (1040)

We are now being asked to pass bills that were passed in whole or in part by this House. I think that Bill C-82, for example, had passed all legislative steps and been sent to the Senate. Now the government wants to start

all over, but in a very special way, the legislative procedure for the bill dealing with the authority to appoint a port warden for the Harbour of Quebec and so on.

I do not understand why, Mr. Speaker, on May 23, when they came with Bill C-73 requesting unanimous consent, they could not have proceeded in the same way with Bill C-82 or some other bill once consent was given. I now oppose, Mr. Speaker, being presented with this jumble of legislation, some of which we seriously oppose and some of which we have agreed to. I cannot understand why this government, these government bullies now want to impose their will on the House of Commons through force of numbers and then would have us believe that they are sensitive to parliamentary reform and want Canadians to see this House work in a friendly, co-operative way.

We presented arguments, Mr. Speaker. I will not repeat them all because there are some good ones. There are good arguments that the government has no business proceeding as it is doing and that it is contrary to parliamentary reform and all political decency. Administratively, it may not be so different whether it is done unanimously or in the way the government proposes; the effect is the same—the House will have the bill before it. I say to the government that it is bad politically to proceed in this way and that we will regret it in this House. Canadians will again say that the government is again reducing proceedings in the House to the lowest level.

Mr. Speaker, something else concerns me too. Every bill must have authorization called the “royal recommendation”. As far as I know, none of these bills has a royal recommendation. Each one of these bills will have to be printed separately and bear the royal recommendation. Mr. Speaker, I do not see how they can come to us with this package and tell us that once the motion is adopted, each bill will be printed and contain the royal recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is bad management, bad policy and, in my opinion, unparliamentary.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I am aware that some other hon. members wish to address the Chair. I will keep that in mind. For the moment I will hear the hon. parliamentary secretary.