

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Plamondon:** Not one single of them was passed—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order, please. Out of respect for the people watching us, I would call upon all hon. members to make an effort in terms of self-restraint so that democracy can prevail in this House, in the greatest freedom and respect for individuals.

• (1620)

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** Mr. Speaker, it is in this context that—

**Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The member for Rosemont has the floor.

**Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont):** I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that you want to maintain some order. Could you ask our colleague opposite to be a little more professional when he speaks?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** This was not a point of order. The member for Jonquière has the floor.

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** Well, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to these members who would not stop talking but who did not put their words into actions and did not present any amendments to try to improve this bill, to try to really protect the interests of Quebec, they really could care less.

This being said, I would point out again that section 3 of the bill as it now stands could imply that there will be a referendum either in some provinces or across Canada. I also want to tell this House that, a few days ago, I had the privilege of talking to the Quebec Premier, Mr. Bourassa. For the time being, nothing can let us presume that, during the referendum, Quebec will or will not follow the rules it has set out and that we are all aware of concerning an umbrella committee for the yes vote and another one for the nos. That will be up to the Quebec government to decide when the time comes.

This being said, I would like to get back to the remarks made by the member for Saint-Denis who said earlier that he did not know if he would abstain tonight when the bill is put to the vote. I too could abstain. I could do the same.

**An hon. member:** How brave of him.

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** I could take the same action.

**An hon. member:** What a brave man.

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** What do Canadians need—

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I listened to the hon. member's speech with a great deal of interest. I hope he makes his speech.

Then he should wait for the vote to see what I will do. I do not want him to get all worked up about what he could do. He should stick to his speech and not get me involved in his comments. He will see what I will do when we vote.

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, my comments deal with abstaining from voting. We need a referendum law.

**An hon. member:** Why?

**Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière):** This piece of legislation is not perfect but there could be a deadlock and we do not have the right, as parliamentarians, not to provide Canadians with the tool that they would need in such a case. It is in that context that we must make a decision and take our responsibilities.

We have the right and the privilege to make amendments. Members of Parliament have the right and the privilege to vote on these amendments.

I will end my speech with a last comment. During this debate over the last few days, I have seen the members of the Bloc Québécois rise in this House on numerous occasions. There was little substance in their comments, very little substance.

These people want to be recognized and then they abuse the system because they do not have anything of substance to say. Then again, they criticize us because we use a gag order. Instead, they should show us that they deserve getting additional time. Then we will be pleased to consider their request.