

*Computer Crime*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. I apologize to Hon. Members. I was having consultations with the Table officers when the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) was recognized on a point of order. Perhaps he would make his point again for the benefit of the Chair.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I think my point has been agreed to by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). When the Bill was introduced at the beginning of Private Members' Hour, a motion was put by the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee. I think that motion has already been made. I was rising to speak on the Bill.

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that you have a copy of the motion by now that was moved by my colleague. His motion was that the question be now put.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) rising on the same point of order?

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. A few moments ago the House agreed to a motion to extend the hour of adjournment in order to complete the hour of debate on this Private Member's Bill. The House having agreed to that, I find it a little difficult to understand how, before that hour expired and when another Member was rising to speak on the Bill, we can now consider a motion to adjourn before that hour expires. We had already agreed to—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I thank the Hon. Member for his comments. The motion I have in my hand is quite in order and I shall put it to the House.

Moved by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) seconded by the Hon. Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley):

That the question be now put.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker—

• (1815)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** The Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen).

**An Hon. Member:** It is a debatable motion.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I see a number of Members rising. The motion is debatable; I should inform Hon. Members of that. For this reason I recognize the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which particular rule we are running afoul of at the present time. I understand that it was suggested by the Hon. Member for Bow River that the time slotted for Private Members' Hour had started at 5.18 p.m. and would go 6.18 p.m. It strikes me that the time for Private Members' Business is over. Perhaps you could rule on

that aspect before I make further comments. I am first trying to find out if we are arguing at cross-purposes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe rising on the point raised by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton?

**Mr. Beatty:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member's argument that Private Members' Hour has expired is tenuous at best and I think he recognizes that. The motion that was moved and agreed to by the House was to extend the sitting of the House until the conclusion of the business before it. The clock cannot run out on a point of order. There is no clock on a point of order. We are currently discussing a point of order on the question that was put prior to 6.18 p.m. by my colleague, namely that the motion be now put. There is no question of the Private Members' Hour having expired on a point of order that was moved to run the clock out on that motion.

I submit that the appropriate step to be taken at this time would be to put the motion and to have a vote on it.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I will recognize Hon. Members who wish to contribute to the point of order. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacBain).

• (1820)

**Mr. MacBain:** Mr. Speaker, I submit that the House as now constituted does not have the authority to extend Private Members' Hour. It may be that the House is still in session, but I am submitting that the House does not have the right to extend Private Members' Hour without consent, and that consent is not forthcoming.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, at the time you were seized of the motion to put the question immediately and related it to the House, as long as it was before the time limit expired and the hours were extended, surely that is the point of time in question. If the Chair is seized of it before the time expires, surely it is the duty of the Chair to call the vote.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. Perhaps the Chair could clarify a number of points which have been made in the course of this exchange. The motion presented by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) was in order, and under Standing Order 36(1)(b) that is a motion concerning the previous question. I refer Hon. Members to Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, fifth edition, page 157, Citation 452 which reads:

The previous question is moved when the original question is under debate in order to force a direct vote on it, thereby preventing any amendments to the original question to be proposed. The form of the motion is "That the question be now put." Once it is proposed, the debate may be continued on the original question.

It was in accordance with this precedent that the Chair recognized the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen), so the debate continues.