

*Point of Order—Mr. H. Gray*

you well know, our preference was to have an emergency debate so that we could debate the issue in principle before the Bill was introduced. We cautioned the Government that its haste in introducing a Bill in an unreflective manner would lead to trouble. However, we conceded to allow debate to be generated in that fashion. It must be remembered that the Ways and Means motion was introduced before the Bill was fully published and we reserved our caution.

The argument has been made that there was opportunity during the last four days of debate to consider the Memorandum of Understanding. The fact is that we were fully aware when we finally saw the Bill that the Government had made a mistake. It was only when the Parliamentary Secretary moved that the question be put, which would cut off debate, and we realized we would not have an opportunity to see the Memorandum of Understanding until second reading was concluded, that we took the action which we did.

**Mr. McDermid:** It was sent to your office on January 5.

**Mr. Axworthy:** It was the action of the Parliamentary Secretary to restrict the debate which made us realize that the Government obviously had no intention of tabling the memorandum which would have made Bill C-37 a proper Bill. Although they say there were copies of the Memorandum of Understanding available in the Minister's office, there was no assurance given that that was the proper and official memorandum. Only by having it tabled in this House as part of this Bill could we be assured that it was the official memorandum.

As I pointed out in my previous intervention, the Minister herself said yesterday that she was going to start negotiating a change to that agreement with regard to the remanufacture of secondary products. They were going to change the agreement before they had even tabled it. Therefore, at that point in time we were being asked to buy a pig in a poke, a Bill which was incomplete and flawed. When the Parliamentary Secretary moved a motion to cut off debate the Government had not lived up to its obligations. Our House Leader then took action at his earliest opportunity, which was before Routine Proceedings today. The crucial point is that the Government precipitated the problem by moving the motion which it did yesterday.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, we have now heard from the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) why they took the action which they did. We have heard a lot of fluff around here.

**Mr. Gauthier:** What do you mean, fluff?

**Mr. Murphy:** You screwed up. Admit it.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You messed it up yourselves. Come on.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is exactly what it is, Mr. Speaker. The words of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) clearly acknowledge that they knew when we began debate on the Bill that the Memorandum of Understanding was not

tabled. The first words that he uttered, as reported at page 2375 of *Hansard*, were:

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the House incorporates an agreement, which presumably in due course will be tabled—

**Mr. Axworthy:** Sure, we were waiting for it.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What has transpired, Mr. Speaker? There have been several days of debate.

**Mr. Gauthier:** We haven't even had the Bill yet.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, may I have the floor, please? If the Member wants to speak, I will certainly hear him out.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I am on the record. I asked for the Bill. You did not have it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) has made a single contribution to the debate. If he wishes to rise and add something, I am sure there will be an appropriate time to do so and the Chair will recognize him at that time. In the meantime, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) has the floor and is making points of interest to Hon. Members and to the Chair.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Stick to the facts.

● (1500)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The Hon. Member says: "Stick to the facts". I am sticking to the facts and I am quoting exactly what his leader stated in the House.

The other fact is that this Bill has been voted upon. An amendment was moved and a vote was taken. I submit that there are two clear examples of the fact that clearly the Opposition, which is now—

**Mr. Nunziata:** You cannot correct a nullity.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think all Hon. Members will agree that the Chair has listened with great patience and interest to all arguments. Most of the arguments have been put with very little interruption.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I am pointing out to you that it was clearly an acknowledgement of the fact that the Memorandum of Agreement was going to be tabled in due course. It can be tabled today. The other fact is that the Bill has been voted upon. Members opposite certainly would not have allowed a vote to take place if they thought the Bill was out of order.

I submit that you have been very patient, very diligent, and you have been very generous with all Hon. Members. I submit that whatever your decision, it is the time to have a decision as soon as we possibly can so that we can either get on with the continuation of this debate or go on to other business.