

*Government Orders*

say that this is just like the Canada Elections Act when it is not.

Let us look at the insidious changes that are proposed. First of all, the method of appointment of enumerators for the enumeration of the people under the Canada Elections Act is that each of the parties that came first and second in the previous campaign appoints one enumerator in all urban polls so that there are representatives of both parties going door to door to select the names of the persons to go on the electors' list.

This bill changes it for the referendum. What does it change it to? It changes it to the appointment of the enumerators by the returning office. Who appointed all the returning officers? Almost every position in Canada has been filled by a Conservative appointee. Everyone knows that Tory hacks have been given the job. I am not saying that is wrong. I am just saying that is the fact. Those people are all being asked now to appoint all the enumerators, not the usual pattern of one from each party. That is what is going on.

Then, get this. If that is not pernicious enough, the list that is drawn up for this referendum campaign will then be used in the general election by section 38 of the bill. In other words, there will not be an enumeration during the general election. The enumeration done by a pile of Tories during the referendum campaign would be used in the general election.

I admit that the government House leader has recanted from this nonsense and has agreed that he will make some changes in the bill to reflect this fact. I am pleased to hear it because it is an absolute scandal. Never before, in years and years of electoral history in this country, have we had an enumeration conducted by one party. It has always been done by two and that is the way it should be done in this case.

The government House leader had the gall to stand in the House and say that somehow this bill was fair and equitable and it is not. It is manifestly unfair.

That is not the only thing. The current Canada Elections Act provides that—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am a little confused. The hon. member seems to be speaking against the bill, but his leader said he would support it. I would like to know whether he intends to—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I am sorry, but that is not a point of order.

**Mr. Milliken:** I hope that is not taken off my speaking time.

[*English*]

As I was saying, under the current Canada Elections Act, deputy returning officers are appointed by the returning officer. The DRO then appoints poll clerks. For some time we have been trying to get a change in this and we are on the verge of getting one through the committee that is working on electoral reform so that there are representatives of both parties appointed to work the polls to make sure that it is done fairly.

• (1630 )

The government members appear to co-operate on this. Was it in this bill to make that change? No, it was not. The returning officer will make the appointments as has been done under the current Canada Elections Act. If this bill was fair and above board, why was that change not included in the bill?

**Mr. Mills:** It was a mistake.

**Mr. Milliken:** Under the terms of this bill, the Chief Electoral Officer is given power to make regulations to give effect to the bill and to make necessary adjustments with the Canada Elections Act. Listen to what the government House leader had to say when he introduced this. He said the Chief Electoral Officer:

would be responsible for making the regulations under the Referendum Act to adapt the Canada Elections Act process to a referendum just as he has the responsibility for making the regulations to adapt the Canada Elections Act to a general election.

He has no such power to make regulations. That statement was patently false. There is absolutely no power in the Chief Electoral Officer to make any regulations under the Canada Elections Act for any