

*Routine Proceedings*

In addition, if we come to the end of the business the government surely would have brought something else forward and it is quite appropriate for the hon. member for Comox—Alberni to bring this forward at this time. To suggest that this member is out to lunch after being ignored by the minister I think is highly inappropriate, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The House has before it an order that specifies, whether there is a debate or not, that the vote must be held not later than 5.45 p.m. to dispose of the two bills at report stage, namely C-31 and C-60. Debate or not, members of this House will have to decide.

[*English*]

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if it would be in order for me to call concurrence on Motion No. 6 which has precedence over Motion No. 9.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I must remind the hon. parliamentary secretary that since the House has been presented with the motion of the hon. member for Comox—Alberni, it would have been better for the hon. parliamentary secretary to intervene before the hon. member for Comox—Alberni moved his motion. The House now has this motion before it and I must consider this fact.

**Mr. Gauthier:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The difficulty facing us is quite simple. We have a unanimously adopted order of the House which says that Bill C-60, the bill being considered under Government Orders, is to be debated in this House, but at 5.45 p.m., the debate must end and the vote must be held.

The debate began this morning, as I recall—I was here—and was to continue. Now a member, who is probably not interested in Bill C-60, one must believe, presents a motion in the House which is acceptable under Routine Proceedings but will prevent us from considering Bill C-60. Unless the government decides to move a motion that we proceed to the Orders of the Day, this motion will probably take up the afternoon's debate, even if it is justified and the report is probably very much in order.

My difficulty is that some of us would have liked to debate Bill C-60. If I understood your decision correctly, the debate on C-60 will not take place unless the hon. member changes his mind or the government has the courage to propose that the House proceed to the consideration of Government Orders. If that is indeed what you said, Mr. Speaker, in that case, it will be hard for us to explain to our constituents, to Canadians, why Bill C-60, a very important bill, was not debated in this House this afternoon.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I simply remind the House that the motion is to consider an amendment moved by a member of the New Democratic Party and that a member of the same party moved the motion under discussion. But that said, the Speaker is only the servant of the House and I have no choice but to apply the Standing Orders and to hear the hon. member for Comox—Alberni.

[*English*]

**Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I intend to be very brief but I want the House to know that this is an extremely important issue and that the honour of the Crown is at stake.

While I understand the need to debate the legislation that has been put on the Order Paper for later today, I was under the impression, our caucus was under the impression, our Whip was under the impression, that if I were to withdraw this motion, we would at least get a decent response from the minister instead of the kind of arrogant response that we got from that minister, the arrogant non-response.

That is why this motion appears today. It is important to members of this House because of what it means in terms of our relationship with aboriginal people.

Fifty years ago this month the Government of Canada seized land under the War Measures Act, land that was given to the Stoney Point Chippewa people as part of their reservation under a treaty dating back to the 1820s. That land was Chippewa land and was to remain Chippewa land forever.

The Department of National Defence wanted lands to set up a military camp in order to prosecute World War II. They had an opportunity to buy land in other areas of southern Ontario but they would have had to buy the land from non-aboriginal people, from white people and they rejected that. They wanted the land that was owned