

*Emergencies Act*

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement Government Orders will be extended by 21 minutes.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### EMERGENCIES ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, November 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Beatty that Bill C-77, an Act to authorize the taking of special temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Madam Speaker, I have a question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) had finished his intervention when the House rose last night. There would normally be a period for questions and comments. As Hon. Members will be aware, we cannot proceed with that right now. I am in a very difficult situation in that I do not like to say that a Member is or is not in the House. However, we are in the position that we cannot proceed with questions and comments.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. It is normal that after Members deliver a speech they are in the House for questioning. The Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn) started off this debate by saying that he was the only one in the House to debate while I was on my feet when he was recognized.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Haven't you got over that yet?

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Order. I believe the Hon. Member will agree with me that we have gone over this point of order on a previous day with regard to who was in the House and ready to debate this Bill. The Hon. Member for Spadina is not in the House to answer questions or hear comments on his speech. I believe that we should proceed with this debate.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I rise on a question of privilege, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I simply want to put on the record, Madam Speaker, that it is a question of privilege that Members of this House are able to question other Members. The fact that the Hon. Member is not here inhibits debate in this House because he did make statements that should be answered. If they are

not answered here, we will have to find other means of having them answered.

**Mr. Friesen:** Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I raised the same grievance several weeks ago after the Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) spoke. He spoke one evening and the period for questions and comments did not conclude that evening. I rose the next day to ask him questions but he had left the House. I rose on a question of privilege because I could not harass the Member from Kamloops. I thought that was terribly unfair and unjust. Nevertheless, I lost the question of privilege because there is plenty of precedent to establish that the Member does not have to be here. It is too bad that the Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) is not here, but that is the way it is.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I believe that this point of order has been discussed thoroughly. We can all agree that the Hon. Member is not in his seat to answer questions. I believe that in the interests of the House we should go on with debate on the Bill before us at this time.

• (1600)

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, it is with some pleasure and sadness that I rise to speak on this Bill. Before beginning my remarks let me say that I read the speech made by the Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn), and I thought it was good.

In the 120-year history of this country, Parliaments and governments have taken actions that we have later regretted. We must ensure that any legislation to replace the War Measures Act will not allow any government of any political stripe to repeat the errors of omission or commission that were committed before. There must be safeguards in the law to prevent a government or, for that matter, a Parliament from taking actions in a moment of panic or hysteria that we will all regret later.

We must ensure that there are safeguards in the Bill to prevent a repeat of what happened to Japanese Canadians, who are still awaiting redress and an apology, or of what was done during the Winnipeg general strike in 1919, when there was a hue and cry to get rid of what was called the foreign element in this country.

There must be safeguards in the law so that our police and security forces will not be able to carry on as they did between 1920 and 1950, following people who were not attempting a violent overthrow of the Government, but trying, through dissent and debate, to bring about a fundamental change in this nation and the purpose of our society.

We must have a law that will not allow the kind of discrimination that took place against Chinese immigrants, who are the only people on whom we levied a head tax. I still believe that tax can and should be refunded, because the records are still within the Department of Immigration. We owe the Chinese Canadians that money and an apology.