

Government Orders

Mr. Bosley: What hypocrisy.

Mr. Caccia: Evidently, a number of serious mistakes have been made along the harbourfront. There is no doubt about that. This is the final blow that should not have been given.

The hon. member for York South Weston in his question also gave the answer to his own question, and very eloquently so. What we want to see now, at least as a minimum, is the retention of the public interest or what is left in public ownership. This is what we are objecting to in the light of what has happened recently.

Hon. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, I had not intended to enter into the debate. I had intended only to enter into comments. Since that time has expired, I wish to put a few things on the record.

I listened, Madam Speaker, to the comments of the hon. member for York South Weston, who clearly was never around in the days when some of us were asked to be part of the planning committee for Harbourfront 15, 16 or 18 years ago. As members of the council of the city of Toronto and metropolitan Toronto, we pleaded with the government—and the member who has just spoken was a minister of that government—to turn the property over to the metropolitan council. The government of the day, led by members who were then in cabinet, who have just spoken, absolutely and utterly refused to take any position that would commit or allow the people and the citizens of metropolitan Toronto to own and to manage the harbourfront park themselves. So, many, many years later, a very sensible—

Mr. Nunziata: That's not what the bills says.

Mr. Mills: Not to public ownership.

Mr. Bosley: It is amazing how the facts cause reaction, isn't it?

Some years later, David Crombie, who is one of the smartest guys in municipal affairs this country has ever seen, recommends, if you read the document fully, that the Harbourfront Corporation be turned over to a negotiated local entity for local control and local management, and that is precisely—

Mr. Caccia: That's nonsense.

Mr. Nunziata: Question, question.

Mr. Bosley: Yes, it is. Yes, it does say that. That is exactly what it says. It says that what should happen in the Harbourfront Corporation is that it should be put under local control.

What this bill says is before you can do that, you have to introduce the legislative authority to allow the Minister of Public Works to take the legislative steps necessary to permit that change.

There is nothing in this bill that requires the properties of Harbourfront to be transferred to private ownership and members opposite who claim that are utterly misleading the House. Read the whole bill. It is very simple. It allows the minister to wind up the corporation. That is all it allows the minister to do. If you want local control of Harbourfront, then this bill is the absolute *sine qua non* in law to allow the minister to do that. Any other suggestion by Liberal members opposite that there is anything else in this is the same kind of distortion that was made by Liberals in 1972 when they said that the people of Toronto would be allowed to run this property and then put every roadblock possible in the way of allowing that. It is typical attempts by members opposite to destroy the capacity of local Torontonians to run Harbourfront the way they should have been able to do from the beginning.

• (1040)

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, do I have a question or can I debate? Is it a question period?

Madam Deputy Speaker: We had resumed debate. The hon. member for Don Valley West used only a few minutes, but that was debate. We are now in a period of questions or comments.

Mr. Mills: Okay, but is it a question period?

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am just trying to answer your question, if I may.

Mr. Mills: Okay, I will ask a question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: This is now the period for questions and comments.

Mr. Mills: First of all, Madam Speaker, I want to say through you to the hon. member for Don Valley West that I may have a misunderstanding here, but is he saying that this bill states categorically that this is just a matter of transferring Harbourfront from the Government of