

Government Orders

workings of this House and indeed the Canadian judicial system.

The government, when called upon by the opposition to cite one single precedent in the last 124 years of Canadian parliamentary history, was not able to cite one single solitary precedent. Yet, I do not know how the government did it, but it convinced the Chair that this motion was in order. We will be voting on it in a few short minutes.

I ask in closing that government members come to their senses in the few years and the few short months that remain in terms of the life of this government if they are to leave this place with any bit of respect from the people of Canada. If they have any iota of dignity, then let them at least preserve it. They have destroyed the country and now they are trying to destroy Parliament and the workings of Parliament.

I call upon decent, hard working Conservative members, if there are any across the way, to vote against this government motion that will set such a dangerous precedent for years to come in this House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, in concluding a debate significant to the very survival of this House, I would like to say that on May 23, it was not the Opposition that decided to prorogue the House and have a Speech from the Throne. It was the government's decision. The government knew perfectly well that by proroguing the House and having a Speech from the Throne, all bills before the House would die on the Order Paper, ending the current session. The government would then be able to make a fresh start with a new agenda.

After the Speech from the Throne, we saw there was practically nothing on the government's agenda. And now it comes back with a number of bills we would have had plenty of time to consider if the government had been really interested and serious about the business of this House. After all, before the House was prorogued, we adjourned for nearly a month, and if we consider the number of days the House has sat so far in 1991, it is quite ludicrous.

With a new session, Canadians were expecting some new initiatives, a new agenda from the government that would put the economy back on its feet and restore

national unity and the confidence of Canadians. Nothing happened, Mr. Speaker. His Excellency the Governor General read a good speech to an attentive audience, but there have been no bills or initiatives to reflect what was in the speech, Mr. Speaker. The only thing we can see, Mr. Speaker, is that they want to reinstate certain bills which had already been introduced in the last session.

If the government was really serious about these bills, negotiations should have taken place before prorogation, as is usually the case. Many times before, my colleagues the government and NDP whips, the Speaker and myself, as Liberal whip, have had discussions to reach unanimous consent on several issues. But if the Speaker starts to innovate either with this motion, with the rules that were rammed down our throats or with regard to committees, of course we will have to go by the rules and insist that they be strictly adhered to from now on. But, as the government will realize, that is not going to make life easy for them because, from now on, there will be no more co-operation, at least from this side of the House, the Official Opposition.

I will close on this, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the government will think twice before the vote because it will be doing away with the co-operation of the Official Opposition in this House.

• (2010)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Pursuant to decision made by the Speaker on Tuesday, May 28, 1991, the Chair will now put the questions separately on the five motions to reinstate certain bills introduced in the Second Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament: First, on the motion to reinstate Bill C-26; second, on the motion to reinstate Bill C-58; third, on the motion to reinstate Bill C-78; fourth, on the motion to reinstate Bill C-82; and fifth, on the motion to reinstate Bill C-85.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Accordingly the first question is on the motion to reinstate Bill C-26.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.