

tive committee will take the calls we are getting very seriously. A lot of people see this as an Orwellian bill. We expect that when the bill is being heard, the Canadian Association of Journalists will be called and we can find some kind of balanced solution.

Mr. Speaker, I do not expect you will find that this bill is the final word. An amendment must be brought forward in respect to this bill.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I want to start by complimenting my colleague for the excellent speech she just presented to this House. I am sure all members would agree that it was very thoughtful and well prepared.

I want to ask my colleague if she shares some of the concerns that some people have about section 113 of the bill. I know she has touched on it briefly. It is the proposal in the bill which would make it an offence not only to disclose the content of a conversation on a cellular phone, but the existence of a conversation.

That means that if I were an amateur listening to a conversation on a radio—and by the way that is not illegal and it will not be illegal under the bill—and I said to my wife: “Mary-Anne, come over here and listen to this”, I have technically committed a criminal act by telling my wife to come and listen to what I had just heard. Even worse, to tell my wife I have just listened to a telephone conversation of John Smith without divulging what he said would be a criminal act under this bill.

I am wondering whether my colleague would agree that those are the kinds of important issues the committee should be dealing with when it reviews this bill clause by clause.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for raising that issue. He has heightened the ridiculous quality of some aspects of this bill and stressed the fact that it is not applicable. A law that cannot be applied is a ridiculous law. You know the old saying: “The law is an ass”. Well that is exactly what it is in this case.

Let me suggest this to the House. Let us say you overhear, through the 900,000 scanners out there, two people planning to set off a bomb and indicating where that bomb will be placed. Perhaps you hear two people planning a robbery but you are not allowed to call the police and tell them you overheard that conversation. Is the interest of the public and the protection of society not more important than protecting the fact that you made a phone call and are liable to an indictable fine? This does not make an iota of sense.

### *Government Orders*

I think addressing the question of privacy is fundamental. The way the wording is addressed in this bill needs very careful attention and some serious amendment. If this is the way one is going to look at how to deal with information that can be critical to the well-being of society, then I am sure this government did not intend it to be this way. It would be very poorly founded and certainly not acceptable in the public eye.

• (1745)

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In order for my colleague to be able to participate in the discourse and given that there is only one minute before the proceedings are to be interrupted for the taking of the deferred vote, I wonder if I could ask the Chair to call it 5.45 p.m. If I keep going for another 30 seconds the Chair will not have even to do that because it will be 5.45 p.m. by then.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** It being 5.45 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 45(5)(a) the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred division on the motion at report stage of Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act.

\* \* \*

## CANADA POST CORPORATION ACT

### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and Motions Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Call in the members.

The House divided on Motion No. 1, which was negatived on the following division:

(Division No. 426)

### YEAS

#### Members

Anawak  
Assad  
Bevilacqua  
Brewin  
Comuzzi  
Dingwall  
Finestone

Angus  
Bélair  
Boudria  
Butland  
Crawford  
Ferguson  
Flis