

*Government Orders*

prove our ability to examine and improve the quality of legislation put before us, that would improve our ability to understand budgetary processes and the ways of better investing the tax dollars, ways of translating into programs and policies the ideas transmitted to us in a variety of ways by our constituents through this very place at the centre.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that we are elected to be active at the centre of this nation, namely on the Hill, in the capital of Canada, not in our respective ridings in the diffused manner being proposed by this package, because that is the essence or the quintessence of the purpose for which we are elected. This package not only disregards this basic fundamental point, it actually weakens the role of the parliamentarian. It is for this reason that, although we would like to be positive about parliamentary reform because it is in the interest of Canadian that parliamentary reform be a continuous process, we have to vote against this measure for a very clear reason, linked to the interest of the population of Canada.

• (1530)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** There are no questions or comments to the hon. member, I regret. I will recognize the hon. member for Hillsborough.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to inform the House that messages have been received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed the following bills without amendment: Bill C-97, an act to provide borrowing authority, and Bill C-98, an act authorizing agreement between the Government of Canada and the provinces to provide for protection for the income of producers of agricultural products and to enable the Government of Canada to take additional measures for that purpose.

[*Translation*]

**ROYAL ASSENT**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall  
Ottawa

April 11, 1991

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. William Alexander Stevenson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 11th day of April, 1991, at 4.00 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith A. LaRocque  
Secretary to the Governor General

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[*English*]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre (p. 19027) and amendment of Mr. Dingwall (p. 19156).

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate dealing with the proposal to change the rules of the House of Commons. It is with foreboding that I do so.

My sense of unease is not brought on by the technical nature of the subject matter. I will admit, of course, that there are those who are much better versed than I in parliamentary procedure. But my trepidation stems from a belief that these changes are symptomatic of a more basic problem; a breakdown in the parliamentary system, brought on by a lack of understanding of the underlying principle of the separation of powers and of accountability.

Let us look at what is happening in this country. Provinces are increasingly demanding responsibility for legislation that the Constitution has assigned to the Parliament of Canada. Constitutional reform, once a