

*Routine Proceedings*

process. Instead, they chose to be obstructionistic. The world knows, and it is all on the public record.

I do not believe there is a point of order here. I suggest that the report which was tabled today is the return of a bill as amended, period. That is the committee report, the bill as amended.

This discussion is not about the bill as amended. This discussion is about what went on or did not go on in the committee. It is a discussion which was held about a week ago. If there was a point of order about the report, then it would be proper to entertain it. I suggest that this discussion is not about the report which was tabled in this Chamber today.

The whole premise on which these arguments is being built is a false premise. The arguments should be dismissed. We should get on with some very important business.

I am sitting here waiting to present the report of the Striking Committee related to the special committee to examine the New Brunswick proposition.

There is other important business. I agree with my friends from the opposition that the topic of the environment is important.

I suggest that either we have a point of order about the report, or we do not. If we do not, and I suggest that we do not, then this argument is irrelevant. If hon. members want to raise at some other point something about committees and the way they should function, then that is a different argument.

This report is simply a report from a committee that has amendments to a bill. It has already been received by the House. They could have raised these arguments before reception. They chose not to. It was received. It is in the hands of the House. There is nothing hon. members can do about it and there is no point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I will hear the hon. member for Essex—Windsor and then the hon. member for Edmonton East.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think that—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I apologize for interrupting my friend.

This whole thing started with the member from Kingston and the Islands asking the Speaker if he would rule today and if we could not put this matter off until Monday.

At that time the member for Kingston and the Islands had the floor. He had not finished his arguments. He was seeking direction from the Chair as to whether the Chair felt that we could possibly put this whole debate off until Monday, because of the importance of the opposition motion dealing with the environment. I can understand the government not being interested in the environment. But I do think the opposition is very much interested in the environment.

I want to ask if you would not go back after the next speaker to the member for Kingston and the Islands so that he could get his chance to finish his remarks.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I will take everything under advisement. I will listen to his argument. I am going to take all of the arguments under advisement so that I can rule on it Monday, or as soon as possible.

The hon. member for Essex—Windsor.

**Mr. Gauthier:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** On a point of order, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, you say that you will take the arguments under advisement and rule perhaps on Monday. That raises another point.

The point of order that is being raised is with respect to the fact that this finance committee report which was tabled should not have been tabled because, in our view, it is not proper to table such a report.

Does that mean, Mr. Speaker, that we can take it for granted that you have not accepted that report and that you will wait until Monday when you render your ruling before you accept that report? If that is what you are saying, Mr. Speaker, then I agree.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I did not say that at all. The hon. member did not hear what I said. I said I would take all arguments under advisement, that I will hear arguments and give my ruling as soon as possible.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You said Monday.