

I have reviewed the letter—I signed it as well—and the entire process was put in place in full view of all senators. The letter went to the Speaker at the time it went to all honourable senators. I can find no rule being broken, including reference to the powers of the Speaker, as described by Senator Frith. I believe, however, that the people of Canada are at the point of exasperation and now have every right to expect Parliament to decide and say yes or no to Bill C-62.

Business enterprises, large, medium and small, have the right to know whether this is a go or a no-go and to have this uncertainty and financial chaos brought to an end. Low-income groups who will be entitled under the legislation to receive GST rebates in advance have the right to have their minds set at rest.

Honourable senators, that is the end of my dissertation. I think it is time to get on with the business of the Senate, and I ask the Speaker to so rule.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, it is clear that a point of order is raised when there is a breach of order, when an irregularity has occurred to which attention must be drawn and for which a correction or remedy is sought.

We have had Senator Kelly express his frustrations respecting the passage of Bill C-62. He has brought up his frustrations under the guise of a point of order on a matter that is not now before the Senate.

Yesterday we followed the rules and adjourned the debate on Bill C-62. We will dispose with the vote on that today and will then be back on Bill C-62. At that time we will be prepared to deal with what Senator Kelly has proposed.

In the meantime, we would like to read the letter. We would like to examine the letter. We would like to examine its implications, and we would like to make our views known to the Speaker at the appropriate time, and I think the appropriate time is when the bill is again before the Senate.

**Senator Simard:** You are looking for mercy!

**Senator MacEachen:** All I want to say is that—well, I will not say anything further, because then I would be entering into the debate, but he has raised some important matters. He has revived in my vivid memory events in the House of Commons, when the Speaker attempted to do something, and did something, which now Senator Kelly is asking our Speaker to do, namely, formulate a motion and put it before the Senate. In so doing, Senator Kelly is asking the Speaker to do something which he has no authority to do and something we would resist totally.

Let us say that we are prepared to examine the letter, examine the implications of it and debate the matter when Bill C-62 is properly before the Senate. I take it for granted that what Senator Kelly has done is to give notice that this matter will be put before us when Bill C-62 is called.

**Senator Simard:** He is speaking on behalf of senators.

**An Hon. Senator:** Come on!

**Senator Perrault:** You can't do it that way!

[Senator Kelly.]

**Senator Frith:** Are you serious?

**Senator MacEachen:** Otherwise, it is totally out of context to ask the Speaker to rule on a point of order on a matter that is not before the Senate but relates to a bill that will be brought forward today when the motion is disposed of. So I would hope that we will at least be given a chance to read the letter, to consider it and to prepare our comments before this matter is pursued.

**Senator Kelly:** Honourable senators, once again I am in a situation in which I find myself so often in this chamber. Obviously, I did not explain myself well enough. My point of order deals with the ability of this chamber to carry on its business. Bill C-62 is secondary. The central issue with me is that under the present circumstance we cannot carry on our business in a responsible manner. That is my issue and that is my point of order.

**Senator Perrault:** That is ridiculous!

**Senator Kelly:** Bill C-62 happens to be the reason why we cannot carry on, but Bill C-62, or whatever, is not the central issue with me. I think that we have to ask ourselves, all of us, not just one side or the other, whether or not we are behaving responsibly. We are not putting ourselves in the position to deal responsibly with our obligations. That is the issue. The way to find ourselves in a position to deal with other business is to consider how to deal with that roadblock.

**Senator Thériault:** That is crap! Obviously, you have never been in a parliamentary body!

**Senator MacEachen:** If Senator Kelly's point of order is that we have no way of dealing with other business because of Bill C-62, he is totally wrong. Is he seriously alleging that we are incapable of dealing with other business? Again, he is deeply wrong. Yesterday, under the rules, the debate on Bill C-62 was adjourned and the Senate was free to deal with all other government business.

**Senator Cools:** All day!

**Senator MacEachen:** All day and all night. The government has kept us sitting around the clock on Bill C-62. Yesterday Bill C-62 was put off, and what did the government do? It adjourned. It stood every other item of government business. Instead of taking the opportunity to call all the items on the scroll, it stood every one.

**Senator Barootes:** By mutual agreement!

**Senator MacEachen:** We did not oppose it. However, if Senator Kelly was eager to do other business, he should have stood up and said, "No—"

**Senator Perrault:** Yes, all 53 senators!

**Senator MacEachen:** —we want to deal with all of these bills." In fact, the only debate that was initiated was by Senator Frith, who dealt with the Copyright Act. All the other government items were stood by the Deputy Leader of the Government, including the Northwest Territories Bill, a bill to change the Bank Act—did you want to deal with that yesterday? Was that one of your items of public business? Well,