

Government Orders

come back and put on the record this motion. It is quite incomprehensible to me.

If people at the time wanted both things, the defence policy review expressed through an agreement on a shorter renewal of the NORAD agreement, they were there to be had. It was not the members of the government side or the members of the Liberal opposition who made that not possible.

NORAD had served this country extremely well, it will continue to serve this country extremely well, and we have every right to try to move our security arrangements into the new world. That is our obligation to our children, and it is not credible to try to have one position on this issue here, and another position on this issue when it is time to deliver in votes and proceedings. I say that with respect.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I simply cannot believe that by my silence on the record of this House, I made any agreement with the hon. member in the terms in which he described them.

There may be an honest difference of understanding of what we did agree to. I will concede without hesitation that we were seeking to try to find some way in which we could get a solid and useful report before the House.

In the end, we did not succeed but I must say categorically, because my friend put it categorically, that his recollection of what we agreed is not mine.

Mr. Rompkey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am not sure that the hon. member has a point of order. I am in doubt.

Mr. Rompkey: Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify the record. My hon. friend across the way suggested that I had said only the government can take initiatives, only the government can initiate policy and it is the responsibility of Parliament simply to review.

It is quite obviously untrue. An individual member can take initiatives, as my friend is doing today, but let me remind the House the government controls not only the government itself, but committees.

It is very difficult for an opposition.

• (1200)

The numbers are such that the government controls not only the House but the committees. Unless the government is willing, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the opposition to initiate reviews. I suggest to you that while—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CORRECTIONS AND CONDITIONAL RELEASE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada) moved that Bill C-36, an act respecting corrections and the conditional release and detention of offenders and to establish the office of Correctional Investigator, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee G.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand in the House today to speak on second reading of Bill C-36 which will create the new Corrections and Conditional Release Act.

There are few issues more emotionally charged or of greater concern to Canadians than that which is at the very heart of this bill, crime and public safety. The need for government action in this area has become increasingly apparent in recent years as public sentiment has been aroused across the country.

Increasing violence in our streets, much publicized abuse and just plain stupid errors in our criminal justice system have aroused considerable and justifiable anger and apprehension among many Canadians. In a nutshell, public confidence in the system's ability to protect society has been severely undermined. There is a very real and disturbing perception within society that the balance is all wrong.