

in favour of and welcome and would proceed with expeditiously.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, again, without trying to create a long debate at this point, the government House leader should know that the Chief Electoral Officer was before the House committee yesterday. He indicated that he did not believe he could deal with further amendments to the Elections Act at the same time as he had to deal with the referendum legislation, in other words a number of clauses which are not controversial, including who gets to vote on election day. Right now we have a lot of urban voters left off voters' lists. It is a problem in each and every election. There are a lot of recommendations that could be put in place to make sure that people are able to vote on the referendum.

The only way those clauses will be in place for a referendum is if the government allows amendments which will be on the scope of the referendum bill in committee. If the government does not allow those amendments, those people will be denied the right to vote on the referendum and on Canada's future.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, the plebiscite will be implemented, if we have one, using the rules of the Canada Elections Act. We can through the plebiscite legislation change some of those rules as they would apply in respect of a plebiscite. That is agreed and I am not adverse to entertaining amendments in that regard.

One has to recognize that does not change the Elections Act. We would have presumably the Chief Electoral Officer who, if he is being prudent, has to prepare for two different events, a plebiscite and a general election. He would have to prepare on the basis of two different rules, one that would apply in an election and one that would apply in a plebiscite. If that is no problem, I am not adverse to it.

Rather than go into all these details, which we could have done if we had agreed to Committee of the Whole, but the hon. member was one of those who was opposed to it, we should let these kinds of discussions go on at committee. We can discuss them. I have said publicly on several occasions now I am not adverse to amendments that will improve the act and let us leave it at that.

### *Government Orders*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I would just like to remind hon. members that we have been on this weekly question for 20 minutes. May I remind the House that the bill this afternoon is under time allocation and time is of the essence. I will recognize the hon. member for Kamloops on that point of order.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, to the government House leader, he referred to the business tomorrow being Bill C-59, the parks legislation, and indicated that there was, after discussions with the parties, a willingness to proceed through all stages.

I simply want to indicate that is the case with our party, assuming that the minister is here to respond to questions and so on during Committee of the Whole.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the hon. member for Shefford rising to retract the remark that he made during Question Period?

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, I want to know which one you are talking about.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I do not think I should repeat it. The hon. member knows. If the hon. member would like to retract his remarks and also the member for Richelieu, whom I listened to distinctly. If you will both please as honourable gentlemen retract the statements you made.

**Mr. Lapierre:** I would like to know which rules are guiding this place. When the Prime Minister calls me a hypocrite it is okay. When somebody else does it it is not okay.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

### REFERENDUM ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-81, an act to provide for referendums on the Constitution of Canada, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope; and the amendment of Mr. Murphy (p.10955).