

Government Orders

Robichaud
Rock
Serré
Skoke
St. Denis
Stewart (Brant)
Telegdi
Thalheimer
Torsney
Valeri
Verran
Wappel
Wood
Zed—133

Robillard
Scott (Fredericton—York—Sunbury)
Sheridan
Speller
Steckle
Szabo
Terrana
Tobin
Ur
Vanclief
Volpe
Whelan
Young

• (1525)

[English]

The Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

* * *

FIREARMS ACT

The House resumed from March 28 consideration of the motion that Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons, be read the second time and referred to a committee; and of the amendment.

The Speaker: When Bill C-68 was last before the House, the hon. member for Medicine Hat had seven minutes remaining for debate.

Mr. Monte Solberg (Medicine Hat, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that I cannot give the speech I wanted to give today because the government has just invoked a form of closure, something that its members spoke out against very strongly in the last Parliament. I am going to speak out against that very thing right now.

• (1530)

Canadians feel very strongly about the whole issue of gun control. In particular, many people across the country are opposed to the whole idea of registration.

In my judgment, this is an extremely cynical and political move. Just before a break when MPs are going back to their ridings to consult with their constituents, the government invokes a form of closure. This prevents Canadians from having the full input and type of discussion they should have on an issue which is so important to them. The government is playing politics with this issue and I want to speak about that in a larger context right now.

As I mentioned, people feel very strongly about this issue. The country in many respects is split along rural and urban lines. I can see this whole issue being extremely divisive down the road if it is not handled properly.

That is why Reform has offered a very good reasoned amendment to split the bill in two. It would give people a chance to vote on the proposals that would bring in tougher sentences for crimes committed with the illegal use of firearms. That is something many Canadians agree with.

Where people differ from the government is on the whole idea of registration. If the government was going to be absolutely fair about this, it would recognize that there are two separate issues here and Canadians should have a right to vote on them separately.

I want to talk for a moment about the whole process leading up to where we are today. As a starting point, before the govern-

NAYS**Members**

Abbott
Asselin
Bellehumeur
Bergeron
Bernier (Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead)
Bouchard
Bridgman
Brown (Calgary Southeast)
Canuel
Chatters
Crête
Dalphond—Guiral
Debien
Dubé
Duncan
Fillion
Frazier
Gauthier (Roberval)
Godin
Grubel
Guimond
Harper (Calgary West)
Harris
Hayes
Hill (MacLeod)
Hoepfner
Jennings
Lalonde
Langlois
Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry)
Lefebvre
Leroux (Shefford)
Manning
Martin (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca)
McClelland (Edmonton Southwest)
Meredith
Morrison
Nunez
Penson
Pomerleau
Riis
Rocheleau
Schmidt
Solomon
St-Laurent
Strahl
Thompson
Tremblay (Rosemont)
Wayne
White (North Vancouver)

Ablonczy
Bachand
Benoit
Bernier (Gaspé)
Blaikie
Breitkreuz (Yellowhead)
Brien
Bélisle
Caron
Chrétien (Frontenac)
Cummins
Davault
de Savoye
Dumas
Epp
Forseth
Gagnon (Québec)
Gilmour
Grey (Beaver River)
Guay
Hanrahan
Harper (Simcoe Centre)
Hart
Hermanson
Hill (Prince George—Peace River)
Jacob
Johnston
Landry
Laurin
Leblanc (Longueuil)
Leroux (Richmond—Wolfe)
Loubier
Marchand
Mayfield
Mercier
Mills (Red Deer)
Ménard
Paré
Picard (Drummond)
Ramsay
Ringma
Sauvageau
Solberg
Speaker
Stinson
Taylor
Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata)
Venne
White (Fraser Valley West)
Williams—100

PAIRED MEMBERS

Deshaies
Gaffney
Harper (Churchill)

Duceppe
Grose
Plamondon