

Government Orders

are the same people who wish they had the opportunity to withdraw their vote and vote again.

I will not be overly partisan with regard to this particular matter. We are in the Thirty-Fourth Parliament. I was initially elected to the Thirty-Third Parliament in 1984, on September 4, 1984. Mr. Speaker, I know that you were probably elected in the First Parliament back in 1867.

In every Parliament there are a number of sessions. What is a session of Parliament? A session of Parliament begins with a throne speech. I have heard a few throne speeches over the last seven years, and I heard another one a few weeks ago when the government said: "This is a new beginning. We are going to do this. We are going to do that. This is part of our program".

It was met with a big, huge yawn from one end of the country to the other. People in Canada said: "So what? Who cares? The government is incompetent. The government has lost the moral right to govern. We want an opportunity to turf this government out". In effect, the throne speech meant absolutely nothing.

In order to begin a new session of Parliament, other than the session that begins with the election of a new Parliament, we have to prorogue—not to be confused with pirogies. Mr. Speaker, you might be familiar with pirogies. We can eat pirogies but we cannot eat a prorogation.

Prorogation took place on May 12 of this year. Prorogation simply means that the government has completed an agenda that it set forth in the throne speech. It is turning the page and embarking on a new agenda. When that happens, the old agenda dies. It is the end of the old session. The Second Session of the Thirty-Fourth Parliament died and we started a new session.

There were a number of bills still on the Order Paper, six or seven pieces of legislation. Those pieces of legislation are not important for the purposes of this argument, except to say that they were at various stages of the legislative process. All were introduced. Some were debated at second reading. Others had gone to committee. Some had come back for third reading. I

believe one or two may have been sent over to the other place where the beloved senators sit.

As a result of prorogation those bills should have died.

Some hon. members: They did die.

Mr. Nunziata: They did die as a matter of fact. They died but they were not buried. They ought to have been buried according to 124 years of Canadian parliamentary history. How many years of parliamentary history?

An hon. member: Eight hundred.

Mr. Nunziata: Eight hundred years of parliamentary history. If you go to the father of Parliaments in Great Britain, or should I say the person of Parliaments in Great Britain, and you go back 600, 700 or 800 years, you will not find a precedent, not a single, solitary precedent, no justification, no rationale, no legal jurisdiction at all, for what government members are trying to do.

What are they trying to do? They are trying to say: "Well, we prorogued but we were only half kidding. We were joking. We were pretending. We really are not starting a new session of Parliament. We want to complete the old session, because we do not want these bills to die. We want to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and revive these bills", not reintroduce them as they ought to do. They should reintroduce them at first reading, proceed to second reading, to a legislative committee, back to this House for third reading, report stage and off to the Senate.

No, they want to revive or resuscitate these pieces of legislation at the stage they were at when they were supposed to die.

You have made a ruling, Mr. Speaker. It is not often that I disagree with a ruling that you have made, but I am afraid you have made a terrible mistake by concurring in the wishes of the government and allowing this process to take place. In a few short minutes, the bells will start ringing and the House will be called upon to decide whether the government can in effect revive those dead bills.

We know that the government has a majority. We know that the government members will filter in from all over Parliament Hill in order to vote. They will effectively allow those bills to be revived.