

Government Orders

only on the part of a member but inadvertence or an error on the part of the Clerk.

I want to re-emphasize the pattern of voting in this place. It is generally assumed that members of a particular party are all going to vote the same way. Once the process is in train, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, on the part of your own observation, that it is very likely that no matter what a member might have done, the probability is high that his or her vote would have been recorded consistent with that of the pattern of voting of his or her party and not reflect any dissent that might have been there.

It is perfectly clear on the evidence that there was no standing upright on the part of this member on the ye a vote, that there was indeed a clear standing, erect and upright with a bowing of the head in the affirmative with respect to the nay vote. It was subsequently questioned by the then Acting Speaker what the intention was.

Now, for anyone in this House to suggest that he or she saw or heard whatever the person may claim to have seen or heard which was inconsistent with what actually happened is absolute garbage. It is even worse for someone who was not here to have launched into a tremendous analysis on the basis of no evidence, on the basis of deductive reasoning. What is involved here is inductive reasoning. What is seen should lead to the conclusion not what is thought leading to the conclusion.

I think what we have here is an example of the Government Whip shooting himself in the foot because what his concern is really all about is that the New Democratic Party in this House yesterday used every tactic conceivable within the bounds of the rules in order to impede the introduction and the debate on a piece of legislation which gives offence to 80 per cent of the population of this country.

Mr. Speaker: That may or may not be the case. But that is not the argument that has been brought to me this afternoon. I, of course, will hear the hon. member's conclusion of his remarks.

Mr. McCurdy: Let me just finish, Mr. Speaker. There is no recorded vote in *Hansard* that indicates that I voted any other way than what I acted to vote or what I have claimed to vote. I think it is just patently ridiculous. It is malevolent, childishly malevolent, to have introduced

this discussion at this time. I think the appropriate ruling is to look at—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. Hon. members have risen and said that from what they saw and what they saw on tapes other hon. members voted twice. They have put that matter to me and the question of whether it is a breach of privilege or contempt or both. That is the issue I have to decide. I do not want to have the argument move away from that particular issue. I do not think that the argument is advanced on one side or the other with any vituperation with respect to the motivation of any particular member in the chamber.

Unless we have further interventions, I am going to look very carefully at what has been said. I have to tell the House that I cannot ignore this point that has been raised and I must deal with it. I will return to the House as soon as I can. I can only say that I regret that this issue has arisen, but it has and I will have to deal with it as adequately as I am able and in the interests of the House. I will return as soon as I can. I thank hon. members for their interventions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: one, the hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James—Agriculture; two, the member for Saint-Laurant—Solicitor General; three, the hon. member for Fundy—Royal—Acid Rain.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

GENEVA CONVENTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark (Yellowhead) that Bill C-25, an Act to amend the Geneva Conventions Act, the National Defence Act and the Trade-marks Act be read a second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I was beginning to believe that I would never get to speak to this bill today. I am glad that the opportunity has finally arisen. I find it unfortunate that it did not come