

Routine Proceedings

• (1750)

After the taking of the vote:

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I hope we are checking the voting record to make sure that members only voted once because I think for the second time in my 11 years in Parliament we really have something going on here this afternoon that is very, very unfortunate for the democratic system. To attempt to vote twice in this Chamber or in a ballot box in a general election is totally unacceptable; totally unacceptable.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to ask the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair whether he is opposed or in favour of this bill.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I thought it was really quite clear that I stood fully erect against the vote. I thought that was pretty clear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is all I wanted to know.

I declare the motion carried.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I just wondered due to the interest of my colleagues in this House for environmental matters—I take this seriously—would you seek unanimous consent to proceed to Orders of the Day?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker. First, on the request from the Liberal Whip and Deputy House Leader we are certainly not going to give the government one more day to impose the GST. For five minutes we would have an Opposition Day. If we gave today as an Opposition Day that would give the government one more day to make it easier to pass the GST.

I asked for the floor because the Government Whip rose and complained about the antics of the Liberals and various members of the New Democratic Party.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure you do that one of the worst nights we ever spent in the House of Commons was when certain Conservative members stormed in and put the Deputy Speaker at threat. I believe the Government Whip was one of those members.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to hear the hon. member for Churchill finish his remarks, please.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, when the Conservative members in opposition in those days did that, they took a physical, aggressive act against the Chair of this House. Nothing can be more against the whole principle of Parliament than that.

For the Conservatives to get up at this time and complain because we may perform a little antic which is not threatening to the Chair, and certainly not threatening to this institution, something to protect the people of Canada, there is a heck of a difference. I would think that before we have any challenges by the Government Whip, he should think back to his own actions and the actions of his colleagues.

He will argue that he felt strongly about that bill. He will argue that the Tory members had a right to charge the Chair, raising their fists, shaking their fists, because they felt strongly about a piece of legislation.

We are not threatening the Chair. But we do feel strongly against this legislation and we will use every legitimate means we have to fight it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to clean up this item today. The hon. member for Kamloops has an opportunity to say a few words about his bill and then I can put it for second reading.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat perplexed by the way you decided that some members points of orders can be accepted at any time, while other members calls for privilege are not accepted. There seems to be quite an editing processing going on here.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the hon. member going to speak on his bill?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, the point of this bill being introduced today is twofold. First, it looks like the New Democratic Party is the only party sending a clear message to the government today that to proceed with the goods and services tax is an inappropriate act and flies in the face of 80 per cent of the people of Canada. That is one of the points.

Mr. Arseneault: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Riis: If you want to recognize the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, I will sit down because I do think that a point of order or point of privilege ought to be heard. I am prepared to sit down and complete my remarks in a moment.