

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Act

● (1700)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but it being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Shall all orders and items listed under Private Members' Business preceding Order No. 7 be allowed to stand by unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake) moved that Bill C-204, an Act to declare Canada a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? *Adopté?*

Mrs. Beauchamp-Niquet: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Is it agreed or not? I am in the hands of the House.

Mr. Fisher: No.

Mrs. Beauchamp-Niquet: I have already said, "No".

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Do we have a debate on this Bill?

An Hon. Member: Put the question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The question is that Bill C-204, an Act to declare Canada a nuclear-weapon-free zone, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): All those in favour, please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Those against, please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): In my opinion, the nays have it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The motion is defeated, I declare the motion lost.

An Hon. Member: Thank you.

And five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): No, there are enough Members now.

Mr. Fisher: No way.

An Hon. Member: He wasn't here.

Mr. Keeper: The Hon. Member was here all the time.

Mr. Fisher: You guys were not all here when it was read.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Call in the Members.

● (1800)

And the division bells having been rung.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order and have a submission to make to you. This is one of those rare occasions in the House of Commons when we are confronted with an unnecessary division. As I understand it, and I believe when the "blues" are published they will bear me out—I cannot quote from the official "blues" but I have the "whites" before me—the Acting Speaker who was in the Chair, Mr. Guilbault, when the question was put on the motion that was before the House, asked for the yeas and nays:

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. GUILBAULT): Those against please say nay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. GUILBAULT): In my opinion the nays have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. GUILBAULT): The motion is defeated; I declare the motion lost.

It was at that point that the Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) entered the House and he and the Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), a fairly highly respected Member of this House, who was in the House at the time, was tapped on the shoulder and rose, and five Members were then recognized with the Acting Speaker then saying, "No, there are enough Members now".

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it did not lie within the province of the Chair to put a question that had already been lost, and