

Government Orders

All through the piece, this member for Mississauga South kept saying: "Look, this is a done deal". Even this morning he reiterated it to me: "This is a done deal". The parties involved, the trust companies, the banks, the insurance companies, the co-operatives, have all agreed to this. It is a done deal. It is brokered.

If this opposition or members on the government side want any changes, nothing can be done. What a eunuch role for members of Parliament. The boys at the bank, the boys at the insurance companies, the boys at the trust and loans, and the boys at the co-ops have already decided what the legislation is going to be.

If we want to stop at anything that is important for the people of Canada with respect to the legislation, there is nothing we can do. It is a broker deal. Our hands are tied. Ours is just to say: "Yes, sir. How many bags full, sir. Yes. Take. Go. Go."

If you look at the minutes, that is how most of these bills went with 600 amendments.

• (1240)

On clause 416, they just went "carried, carried, carried".

I want to say that the straw that broke the camel's back was in having entered our amendments two weeks ago and constantly asking "Where are the government amendments?" What we wanted to do was verify, technical as they may be, those amendments that were handed to me this morning in the Order Paper. We wanted to check those against what we had agreed to in the committee. As a result, even as we were doing this the chairman of the committee, *in loco ministerio*, comes over and says "Look, we missed a subclause on 416 and I just got a call from John Evans over at the trust company and he said we didn't fulfill what we promised and what we had agreed to; what was done in the done deal isn't done here in the legislation". Then there are some C-28 amendments.

I do not think that is the way we should be doing business. Quite frankly, we are accepting the justice department's good work and flawed reputation of the past in missing clauses to say "we trust you, what you say is fair is fair." I do not operate that way and I wanted

time to verify those amendments with the bills. That is the way I operated in the committee, as members who sat on that committee know, and that is the way I operate now that we have come to report stage. I do not see that putting this off till three o'clock is going to delay anything for the government. After all, we have been very co-operative up to this point. I think that is what we should do.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a few moments to participate in this point of order because I think there are some very valid points being made.

I want to begin by saying that I thought the process in which all were parties engaged in the handling of these four financial bills is a model of the way Parliament ought to work. We have demonstrated between all three parties how we can co-operate, how we can handle very complex, very difficult issues in a way that I think demonstrates a lot of wisdom and a lot of leadership on the part of both sides of this House.

I want to begin by saying that and to compliment my colleagues not only on this side of the House but also those on the other side of the House for the work and the co-operation they have given us.

It is obvious that there has been a very unfortunate error in process here, and it is one that I can only ask that the House forgive. I say "the House" because I do not necessarily mean the opposition members; the government members are just as unhappy about that. I apologize for that error. We are going to try and do the best we can to correct it. I would suggest that we call it one o'clock which will allow members to go back and have a look at things and get it sorted out.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Members have heard the motion of the parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I got myself into this dilemma a while back. May I suggest that we suspend the sitting until two o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.