

"That is your executive act and responsibility", and the government ended the consideration of those bills at the stage they were at at the time.

Having done so, it started a new session and now it is saying: "Well, we are going to pretend we did not do what we did. We are going to pretend we did not prorogue the session in relation to these five bills. We are going to reinstate them and we are putting them back where they were. One of them was passed by the House of Commons. We are going to say it is passed again, and pretend there was no prorogation".

The government made the choice to prorogue and now it is saying it will pretend it did not happen, at least on these bills. However on others it does not like, such as the gun control bill and the conflict of interest bill, it will just continue as though they are dead. It will do what it wants with them later and come up with new bills on those items.

Of course, we have not heard anything about conflict of interest. It was not mentioned in the throne speech. It was a big item during the election campaign in 1988, but we have seen absolutely nothing since. It is just like day care and all the other broken promises that this government has made over the years. I do not want to go through that kind of list.

Finally, I want to turn to one more point that the parliamentary secretary made in his argument. He said:

Yes, we could go back and go through these five bills again. We could debate them once more at tremendous cost to the House in time, at tremendous cost to the taxpayers of Canada who are saying to us as members of this House: "Quit fooling around, get serious, do some business, cut out the partisan games".

The government has been talking all this non-partisan nonsense, saying that this House has to stop being so partisan. Then it comes and does a trick like this, breaching every parliamentary precedent, I suggest, that ever existed. It is breaking new ground, limiting debate and cutting members off from their opportunities to speak.

This House has not been slow in passing bills. This government has got away with closure something like 14 times already. This is the fifteenth time it has used closure in this Parliament. We have had bills moving through this place at record speeds.

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The evidence of that, if the hon. member argues that point, is the number of lengthy adjournments we have had where the government has sent us away: "We do not have anything more that we have to do today. Thank you. You members can go home for a month or two months". That has gone on repeatedly in this Parliament. The hon. member knows that.

This government is a dry well, a dry hole when it comes to new innovative ideas. It has not got any. It does not want Parliament sitting here debating rehashed ideas and junk legislation which it is bringing forward to keep us occupied.

What it is doing is saying: "We will limit debate. We will jam everything through in three weeks and then our members can go home to try to revive their electoral fortunes". That is what is going on here. This is part of exactly the same game: ram the bills through five at a time in one motion like this, two days debate, and then some of them will never get discussed in the House and the others are at least at a stage where we can get the debate finished in two days. That is what is going on here.

The people of Canada are being hoodwinked by the parliamentary secretary's smooth talking words about non-partisanship in this House and the need to get together and co-operate on business. He says: "Co-operate as long as it is on my terms and if I suggest it, it is non-partisan. If it comes from the opposition, it is partisan, and we are not going to play those games". That is the kind of message we are getting from this government and it is dead wrong. It is cheating. It is deceiving the people of Canada.

We are not here to be told that our suggestions are partisan and the government's are not. No one is more of a partisan player in this House than the government House leader, and members on the other side know that perfectly well. His parliamentary secretary is falling into the same bag of tricks.

We on this side of the House will oppose this kind of abuse of the procedures and practices of this place.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to be speaking on this day, especially following the hon. member from Kingston who so eloquently put the argument about the nature of the debate we are having today.

Here we are debating a motion of closure dealing with bills from another Parliament. It seems to me that the decision the government has taken in this case is very, very peculiar and probably sets a very dangerous precedent for governments of that ilk down the road. Hopeful-