Criminal Code

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): What kind of Members are they?

Mr. Smith: Hon. Members, and they are polite, which is more than I can say for you.

I think what happened was there was some confusion. I think the House would best be served if we did undo this and allowed this Bill to be addressed. The Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) is not here simply because he would have been advised that his Bill would have been called at five o'clock. We would like to accommodate him. Any suggestion which any Member may have made that there was some sort of trickery going on here is absolutely outrageous and contemptuous.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, trickery has occurred in this House before, on July 12, 1982, and it could happen again. It was done on that side. I think the manner in which this debate has been conducted is absolutely disgraceful. I do hope that somehow or other arrangements will be made for the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin to speak to his Bill, and also if there are other Members of the House who wish to discuss the Bill that is now before us before we reach the Bill of the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin, that they have an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Sargeant: Mr. Speaker, I think where some of the confusion may have arisen, at least on my part, was when you read the number of the Bill. I believe if you check the record you will see that you said C-684. I was under the impression that it was C-624. I think if you check—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order. Before I listen to further points of order, the House has its own capacity to handle matters as it sees fit. I do not think we need to go on with points of order which are really related to motivation rather than to actual procedure. To clear up on matter, I read the motion, and I read it in French. I will repeat it.

[Translation]

That Bill C-624, that is what I said, not 684—

[English]

That is not an argument I would accept to intervene or interfere with the proceeding. I have explained to the House that there is a very simple proceeding at this point. I have indicated that it apparently has surprised some Hon. Members that this motion has been referred to a committee for second reading. It certainly surprised the Chair as well. However, the House can undo what it has done very simply. It will, however, require unanimous consent. If some Hon. Member chooses to withhold unanimous consent, then the Chair has no choice in this matter. This Bill will be referred to the committee.

I will recognize further points of order if it is necessary, but I would point out to Hon. Members that the easiest and most successful way to resolve the problem is to permit me to put

the question to the House as to whether or not there is unanimous consent to this order.

[Translation]

-I am first going to put the question.

[English]

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, to accommodate everyone, I am prepared to move that we undo what in fact occurred and we do now discuss this Bill standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Chambly (Mr. Dupont).

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Now, I would like to be perfectly clear—

[English]

It is now moved by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith):

That Bill C-624 be by unanimous consent not yet sent to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

In brackets, I may say subject to debate for the remainder of the period of one hour. I will now put the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the House. If I hear a lack of unanimous consent, once again I repeat that the Bill will go to committee.

[Translation]

Is there unanimous consent, as I explained?

[English]

Is there unanimous consent to continue the debate on this Bill before sending it or not sending it to committee?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): There is not unanimous consent. The Bill is therefore sent to committee.

Mr. Taylor: Who said no?

Mr. Dupont: I said no.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

[Translation]

Mr. Dupont: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for Chambly (Mr. Dupont), on a point of order.

Mr. Dupont: Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, my colleagues opposite may be unhappy about this, but they were probably asleep in their seats and were not paying attention to the procedure. Nevertheless, like myself, they have been sitting in the House for many years, and they know perfectly well they will have another opportunity in Committee, since the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. As far as you are concerned, it is not my fault, my dear colleague, but personally, I am very pleased.