

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. Milliken:** The chief government Whip indicates that this is not correct.

**Mr. Hawkes:** He made a ruling and it was challenged.

**Mr. Milliken:** He indicates he made a ruling. Whether he made a ruling or not, he introduced the motion. That is all I am saying. Whether he did it by ruling or how he did it, he apparently put a motion before the committee and then said: "Now we are going to have a little vote, ladies and gentlemen", and he proceeded with the vote.

Of course, the group on his committee that supports the government acted as they always do when the government Whip cracks the whip and tells them to do this. They do it. They snap to it, except for a few free-thinking members like the hon. member for Calgary Northeast and I note that he was not on the committee. But had he been there, I am sure he would not have voted with this group.

The majority in the committee voted and supported the chairman in his ruling, upheld his ruling, and then in comes this closure motion, in effect, in that committee.

That was, in my view, an entirely improper exercise. We have discussed that before. The Chair has indicated that without a report from the committee, the Chair is unable to deal with it.

We now have a report from the committee. I do not know what it says, but I would hope that it has some words of censure of the chairman for these improprieties in the report. As I say, we have not had an opportunity to review it. If it does not, they should be there because clearly there have been things going on in the committee that, in terms of fairness, in terms of procedural fair play, in terms of the right of people to be heard, are improper. They were wrong and they should not have gone on. There was, as I say, a bully tactic. The members of the committee were denied their rights of free speech and that is one of the privileges of members of this House, Mr. Speaker, enshrined in all the authorities. In Erskine May and Beauchesne's freedom of speech is one of the privileges of members of Parliament.

I suggest to Your Honour that it was denied to the members of this committee by the actions of its chairman. He is supposed to be the servant of the committee not the whip, not the bully-boy. He is supposed to be the servant of the committee and he was obliged, in my submission, to act in accordance with the wishes of the

committee, not just the majority, but in fact to ensure fairness as between the various parties who were participating in the proceedings in the committee.

I submit there was a failure on the part of the committee to come to a conclusion, to do a study on this bill that was in accordance with the rules of natural justice, that was in accordance with our privilege of freedom of speech, that was in accordance with our rights as members to debate fully and discuss intelligently these things and that was in accordance with the public's right to participate in the proceedings by coming and giving evidence.

The Minister of Supply and Services is mumbling from his seat again. I know that he would liked to have been a member of this committee.

**An hon. member:** Was he mumbling or was he growling?

**Mr. Milliken:** The parliamentary secretary says it was a growl. The Minister of Supply and Services is not a lion that terrifies this particular lamb I can tell him. I think that the Minister of Supply and Services should have got on the committee and participated in its proceedings. I am sure he would have made a very worthwhile contribution, and chances are if the minister had been there he would be voting against the goods and services tax because he would have heard the—

**Mr. Dick:** Peter, you waste more time in this House of Commons on these stupid things than everybody else put together.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. I would hope that we could finalize this. This is an opposition day and I am sure there are other members who would like to speak. I would hope that the hon. member would come to the finality of these arguments so that the Speaker could at least have an opportunity to review some of this and come back with a ruling. The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

**Mr. Milliken:** As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the point I was trying to make, Sir, was that this committee report ought not to be received. I suggest that Your Honour review the report, the proceedings in the committee, the submissions that have been made by members in this House, and then reject the report. I suggest that the Chair then has the authority to refer this bill back to another committee, a new committee that will do a