

proceeding in the House of Commons on Bill C-84, which is part of the security package.

When this peace and security package was presented, Bill C-83 entitled "An Act for the Better Protection of Canadian Society against Perpetrators of Violent and other Crime", and Bill C-84 entitled "An Act to amend the Criminal Code in Relation to the Punishment for Murder and Certain Other Serious Offences", by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford), both bills were linked together. In fact the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) in his speech on what is known as the abolition bill presented the question of gun control as the answer to control murder, and at that stage he too linked both bills together. The government linked both bills together in a peace and security package.

The personnel who are interested in the debate on Bill C-84 are also interested in the debate in committee on Bill C-83. I want to make this important point of order with regard to the arranging of business. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, because you are the only one who can protect our rights, since we are confined to the committee when the other debate is going on here as part of the same peace and security package—

**An hon. Member:** Where were you Monday night?

**Mr. Woolliams:** I happened to be here. The hon. member does not know I was here because he was absent. I do not know where he was.

The personnel on the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs naturally want to consider the debate on abolition and yet are being tied to their places on the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee because the whole strategy and plan of the government, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and the House leader is to ram legislation through. They know that crime is on the increase and they want to sell the idea to the Canadian people that they are doing something about it. In fact, they are doing absolutely nothing about it.

They flaunted their own law that they passed 2½ years ago in reference to murder. They have postponed the penalty for murder while a number of people are waiting in jail, having been convicted of killing police officers and prison wardens. Therefore my point of order is that the committee should not and must not sit while the House is considering the bill to abolish capital punishment. I have a right as a member of parliament to listen to the debate in the House of Commons. I should not be denied that right by being confined to a committee because of the Liberals over-powering majority in the House that runs slipshod over parliament and, in particular, members of the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Woolliams:** I realize that timetables are tight. However, this is not a question of a tight timetable. It is a question, I repeat, of a government making up its mind to ram through a bill against the will of the people of Canada and the will of the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** Be serious.

#### *Committee Procedure*

**Mr. Woolliams:** I have never been more serious in my life. You, Mr. Speaker, are the only one who protects the rights of the individual members of parliament. Our rights, as they exist, exist and continue to live because you have been elected to the highest office in the House of Commons. I make this appeal to you. Should members of parliament, in particular members of the opposition who have a duty to fight Bill C-83, not because of its intention but because it is the most horrible, badly drafted legislation that has come before the House of Commons, not be in the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Woolliams:** I am using this as part of my argument on my point of order. The facts that I set out now are to substantiate why we should not have two hearings going on at the same time in two parts of this institution.

I was in this House of Commons when we had a Progressive Conservative government. The then 49 Liberals refused to sit on committees while the House was sitting. The Right Hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), because he believes in democracy and the supremacy of parliament over a powerful government such as we have today, gave into that.

I am told the government wants to get the bill on the abolition of capital punishment out of the road. It wants to rush it through. I am speaking for thousand of Canadians today who are writing letters to all members of parliament on all sides of the House, and who are concerned about these bills and concerned about crime.

We have heard six witnesses with reference to Bill C-83. Our party is co-operating in every regard. However, even the written briefs are pushed through. Members are denied the right to present full argument on the briefs being presented. They are given only 15 minutes in committee. A few members are only given ten minutes, and there are many on the list who are not allowed to ask a question. The government is ramming through this legislation against the will of the people of Canada.

I am asking, therefore, that there be a directive that a matter that comes before the House in one package cannot be debated in two places at the same time. When the debate on the abolition of capital punishment commenced the other night, there were only 53 members in the House. I was one of the 53.

The committee is being asked to sit and consider one part of the package, and the House the other part. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, as guardian of the rights of parliament, to give a directive in this regard because it is the same package. I make this special appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, because the government is running slipshod over parliament, the people of Canada and, indeed, its own backbenchers.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I will direct my remarks through you to the government