

such issues, as are most, if not all, the members of the Agriculture Committee.

It is my view that the Bill would receive a better hearing there. It would be heard by people who have a greater understanding of the issues, not to mention the fact that our committee is well assisted by technical staff and support staff who are also very qualified. For those reasons my own personal preference would be that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture rather than to a legislative committee.

Although I have indicated that the Holstein Association of Canada is in favour of this Bill, and that I support the work of the Holstein Association of Canada, I do have a bit of a vested interest in supporting it because there are more dairy farmers in the riding that I represent than in any other constituency in Canada. I suppose that that enables me to have a better appreciation of the Holstein Association and the Holstein clubs in various counties across the country.

Although the Bill does enjoy the kind of support that I have just described, it should be noted that a number of groups have serious questions about particular clauses in the Bill. I recognize that the Parliamentary Secretary and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture have indicated both publicly and privately in one case that there are amendments which the Government is contemplating and will be bringing forward at the committee stage. It is my hope that these amendments that will be proposed before that committee will alleviate the concerns that some people have expressed in the past.

For instance, the Appaloosa Horse Club has indicated that there are measures in the Bill which it finds would need important amendments in order to make the Bill acceptable. The Appaloosa Club in a letter which it sent to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) dated August 13, 1987, indicated that it had been wanting improvements to the legislation but that it had never been consulted since the draft Bill was put together, or at least since the efforts were commenced to put a draft Bill together in December of 1985. It felt that this lack of consultation had created conditions which perhaps had affected it in a negative way and that now amendments would be necessary in order to make the Bill acceptable.

One such amendment is the following, and I read from the letter that the club sent to our colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, in which it is stated that Clause 59(g) of the Bill would need to be amended because, and I quote from the letter, "this means that commercial livestock breeders will not be able to identify, promote, or advertise to sell livestock that are not registered to a specific breed". In other words, livestock which is not registered could not be advertised for sale, as the club understands that particular provision of the Bill as it is presently drafted. That may be a clause of the Bill to which the Parliamentary Secretary, the Minister and the

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Government are prepared to offer certain amendments in order to correct this potential deficiency.

The club also noted that Clause 54 of the Bill could use some amendment as well as Clause 59(j). The Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada, needless to say, is of the opinion that the legislation should be amended. I read to you, Mr. Speaker, the conclusion of the letter in which it is stated:

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada that if Bill C-67 is passed in its present form, the Association, as well as its members, would be adversely affected.

We would encourage you to have this Bill sent back to committee so that we, as well as other Associations, can have more input to Bill C-67, to make it better for the Canadian Livestock Industry.

In other words, notwithstanding those shortcomings, the club is not advocating that the Bill die on the Order Paper, or that the Government withdraw the legislation, but merely expressing the view that the Bill could and should be amended. As I read the information package that was sent to us, it would be willing to participate constructively in order to have amendments brought forward at the committee level.

In conclusion, I want to indicate that our Party does not wish to delay this legislation at all. It is our hope that it will be going to committee as soon as possible. In my own personal view, we should make an exception this time and not send it to a legislative committee. Of course, there is nothing specifically wrong with doing that, but it would be better, I think, for the legislation and we could provide better amendments and have more constructive and better participation if, by exception, we send this Bill to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to take part in this debate on behalf of the Liberal Party. I may point out that although this Bill has taken far too long to reach the floor of the House, we appreciate the Government's decision to finally consider the second reading stage of this proposal. We have no intention of prolonging debate. We hope the Bill will be referred to committee very shortly, and as I said earlier, my personal preference is to have the Bill considered by the Standing Committee on Agriculture instead of a special legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker, that being said, I hope all Members of this House will co-operate in having the Bill referred to a committee of the House as soon as possible, so that we can make the necessary amendments, as was pointed out to us by the Appaloosa Club, and perhaps other organizations would also like to suggest some changes if we have hearings before a parliamentary committee.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Member for Nickle Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) rising on a point of order?