

*Government Orders*

tion permitted would not be enough to cover the animal or animals in question. Thus owners would have to carry adequate insurance coverage. This, unfortunately, may add to the additional input costs of farmers.

• (1240)

It is important that consideration be given in committee with regard to the amount of compensation the farmer would receive should a disease inflicted animal be destroyed. The bill should provide farmers sufficient compensation to replace their high valued animals.

In general, Bill C-66 attempts to provide measures that encompass a wider variety of animal diseases and harmful toxins. It endeavours to strengthen import inspection to keep out foreign diseases. It also provides for more effective legal control over diseases and adds to the ability to enforce legislation.

Aside from the benefits the bill has for the protection of animals and this sector of our agricultural industry, it plays an important role in protecting the health of farmers who come into contact with animals and the Canadians who eat meat, eat eggs or drink milk.

This legislation assists in the eradication of diseases which can be harmful to humans, such as in the case of salmonella. The bill also provides the powers to detect chemical residue contamination such as in the serious case of PCB contamination, by broadening the scope of disease definition.

For all these reasons, I believe the bill is worthy of support. I would hope that some of the aspects of this bill are given further study in committee and that these matters which I have referred to are given due consideration when the committee examines this bill in greater detail.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** On division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

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**PLANT PROTECTION ACT**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (for the Minister of Agriculture)** moved that Bill C-67, an act to prevent the importation, exportation and spread of pests injurious to plants and to provide for their control and eradication and for the certification of plants and other things, be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the legislative committee considering Bill C-66.

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I want to indicate at the outset that we have agreed to have this bill, as well as Bill C-66, dealt with by the same committee because the two pieces of legislation are very similar in many ways.

The title of this revised act is the Plant Protection Act. The more appropriate name reflects the new and more vigorous action this government is taking to protect Canadian plant-based industries from the economically disastrous effects of plant pests, which include both insects and diseases.

Since the first formal pest control act was passed 80 years ago, Agriculture Canada has accepted responsibility for safeguarding the health of our agricultural plants and our forests. The government revised this mandate when new technology, advances in research and changes in the world market for plants, plant products and other things demanded better legislative controls.

In 1952, for example, Canada responded to growing international concerns over the spreading of pests by signing the International Plant Protection Convention. Signatories to this convention agreed to certify that their plants, plant products, and other things destined for the shores of member countries were free of plant pests. The legislative mandate of Agriculture Canada was subsequently extended to reflect this international commitment.