

He further qualified:

The terms of the motion itself which I have just outlined must serve as a beacon to guide members in drafting any amendments.

I suggest that the notice given to the House on March 10 does not meet this test. As a beacon, it will not provide very clear light on what amendments are or are not acceptable because it simply refers us to a press release that was released outside this House.

I do not think a motion to concur in this notice should be permitted. I ask the Speaker to rule that this notice is irregular and that there can be no further proceedings on it.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona indicated in his comments, the ways and means motion was not different from others that have been accepted in the House.

Indeed I would refer the hon. member to a ruling by the Chair of January 29, 1990 when the same issue was raised by his colleague, the member for Kamloops.

That being said, I think it should be pointed out for the record that in fact when the ways and means motion was tabled, the press release referred to was part of the tabling. The information was there, but I do acknowledge that with a few changes on a word processor it would fit in more with the traditions of this place.

Even though what occurred was not out of order in terms of our practices and previous rulings, I think a change in procedure may be appropriate in this instance. We will make that strong recommendation to the Department of Finance.

• (1510)

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, I wish to concur with my colleague from Winnipeg Transcona. We are intending to raise this when the government was obtaining concurrence.

However, the difficulty with the notice of the ways and means motion is that in accordance to the ruling to which my hon. colleague has made reference it was to be a beacon to guide members and I think, as members now know from the words of the government House leader, it

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is probably not appropriate and the recommendation the government House leader is providing is timely.

I would hope that this kind of practice would not continue in the future. The difficulty with this notice of ways and means motion is that it is incomplete and, I would go as far as to say, unintelligible.

The notice provides for the introduction of a bill to amend the GST along the lines described in a press release. However, the ways and means motion merely refers to that release which was neither appended to the notice as tabled nor subsequently tabled in the House itself. In other words, the House is asked to decide on an issue about which it has no official knowledge.

The parliamentary secretary is indicating something quite different. However I just wish to be on the record as concurring with my colleague from Winnipeg Transcona.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the points made by the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona, by the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and by the minister. There seems to be a way where things could be done in a more appropriate manner. Should things not be done to the satisfaction of hon. members, I am sure they will come back to the House and we can look at it at that point.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—FISHERIES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Simmons (p. 8079).

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls has two minutes remaining.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Madam Speaker, I am glad that the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is here. As I was saying this morning, the minister of fisheries will be appearing tomorrow afternoon at 1.30 at the law school of the University of New Brunswick. The posters say that he will be addressing the students and faculty of the law school concerning the fisheries.