

Government Orders

I am afraid there is definitely a contempt of the House and I would like to lend my support to the words of my hon. friend from Dartmouth.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the point and I have the transcript. I understand the argument that has been put to me and I will consider the matter and report back to the House as soon as I can. The hon. minister.

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to comment in response to the House leader of the New Democratic Party. He talked about the fact that there is no tax in this country, that the GST is a new tax. He specifically mentioned Alberta. The hon. member should know, an Albertan should know, that in fact they pay \$2 billion a year in tax and—

Mr. Speaker: I must ask the co-operation of the House and ask hon. members to remember that what I have to determine is whether there is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege or contempt of the House. That is the sole issue. I have heard enough argument to be able to make that decision one way or the other and I have indicated that there is no need for further argument on this. I would ask members to co-operate with me. I will report back to the House on this matter as soon as I can.

The hon. parliamentary secretary on a point of order.

Mr. Cooper: I do not wish to enter into the argument. I just wish to draw the attention of the Speaker to citation 62 of Beauchesne's Sixth Edition.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. parliamentary secretary.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (for the Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-66, an act respecting diseases and toxic substances that may affect animals or that may be transmitted by animals to persons, and respecting the protection of animals, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Milliken: In respect of this bill, C-66, and the next bill, C-67, I believe there is unanimous disposition on the part of the House that the two be referred to the same legislative committee.

While the motion may not have to be changed on this particular bill, I wonder if on the next one it could be made clear, and perhaps the Table could assist on this, that when the question is put it is by unanimous consent that after the bill receives second reading, it is referred to the same legislative committee to which Bill C-66 is referred.

Mr. Cooper: Madam Speaker, I would just like to indicate that indeed we agree with this sensible proposal and would support it. I think it is a good idea.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I too want to suggest that there have been discussions. We felt that this was a way to deal most expeditiously with these two related bills. I support the suggestion made by my hon. friend, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank all hon. members. We will make sure that when we do present the next bill whatever needs to be done will be done.

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to present to the House for second reading legislation amending the Animal Disease and Protection Act.

The current act has provided a sound base on which Agriculture Canada implemented its national animal health program, but it is showing the afflictions of age and time has exposed some weaknesses. Technological advances and public demands for the highest standards in agricultural products, increased competition in the world market-place, and the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms have produced a new urgency for legislation that will guide us into the 1990s.

The amendments before the House will revitalize our animal health legislation. They reflect national demands for a continued high level of animal health, consumer demands for top quality products, and international demands for world-class agricultural products.

The current Animal Disease and Protection Act, originally passed in 1869 and last amended 14 years ago, has been revised to meet the demands of the next decade. The act has been substantially improved to control animal diseases that may be passed to people and to ensure toxic substances do not contaminate domestic