

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I did ask for the document in the two official languages. This is all the pages could give me. It is in one official language only. The Minister of Finance says: "Turn it over". I did turn it over. It is still in the one official language. I can read, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance cannot.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the hon. member for Parkdale—High Park. While I do not think it is a question of privilege, I think it is a matter of good management and courtesy to ensure that copies of this particular document are available to all hon. members in this place.

I think some of the difficulty may be, if I heard correctly earlier today, that some were published in French only, some were published in English only, and some were published in the two languages.

However, the hon. member has raised a matter which concerns the Speaker. I shall look into it and I will try to satisfy the hon. member.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX BROCHURE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a related question. We found out this morning via the press that the Minister of Finance and the Department of Finance had sent out 1.8 million copies to small businesses across Canada. Members of Parliament have yet to receive copies in our offices.

Could the Minister of Finance explain when he had copies of this goods and services tax information booklet sent to the offices of members of Parliament? I wonder if he could explain when that was done.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member for Kamloops could put his question again.

Mr. Riis: I guess the Minister of Finance was preoccupied. The Minister of Finance sent the brochure out to over one million small businesses some time ago. I was wondering if he could explain when he had it sent to members of Parliament so we would be aware of what the Department of Finance had actually done.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, these pamphlets have just gone out to small businesses. It was done through the Department of National Revenue. I am not quite sure precisely when they went out. If my hon. friend would like more copies of the document—

Government Orders

Mr. Riis: I don't have any yet.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —we will make sure he gets as many as he wants.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kamloops has also indicated the desire of hon. members to have copies. The minister has responded, and I am sure the minister will co-operate with all hon. members.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): On the second or third printing.

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. Leader of the Opposition has an intervention, which of course is always welcome. Perhaps it needs no reply.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the point raised by the hon. member for Parkdale—High Park and I think the matter can be rectified among members on both sides of the House. If it is not, I invite hon. members to raise the matter further with me.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EXCISE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-62, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act, the Criminal Code, the Customs Act, the Customs Tariff, the Excise Act, the Income Tax Act, the Statistics Act and the Tax Court of Canada Act, be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance; and the amendment of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 7569).

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Now that Orders of the Day have been called, I want to indicate the desire of the government to debate this very important bill, Bill C-62, on the goods and services tax.

In order to give all members of the House a full opportunity to debate this particular bill, I want to indicate the willingness on the part of the government to extend the debate this evening until twelve o'clock midnight in order to allow as many members as possible to participate in the debate.