

The same thing has happened and will happen again if strict means are not taken in the national interest to control accidental importation of pests and diseases not native to Canada. Dutch Elm disease in Ontario and in my home province of Prince Edward Island is one example. There are many more.

It is in the national interest that strict inspections take place, not only in Canada but in the place of origin, the place of importation, in order to control the importation and the export of plant pests and diseases to other countries.

Therefore all parties agree, I believe, to having a good enforceable act so Canada can protect its farmers and citizens from the huge costs that can result from a weak act. This bill is certainly one which strengthens the existing act.

We are labouring under a certain handicap here today in that we have no knowledge of the regulations which are going to be available or passed which will govern the different aspects of this bill. For example, we do not know to what extent farmers can or will be compensated for a pest or a disease which is introduced to their farm through no fault of their own. We do not know the extent of the arbitrary powers that the inspectors will have when they are inspecting the premises and discovering contraventions of the act.

We do not know to what extent an over-zealous inspector, as was mentioned before, can really cause a lot of irreparable damage to a farmer's financial position by issuing tickets on an *ad hoc* basis. The farmer must have a way to appeal these ticketing violations in order that he might be able to state a case of his own.

We also do not know the extent or the cost of the privatization of the inspection service. We do not know if there are private people available in Canada who are trained well enough to do inspections. We do not know if we will have enough civil servants or what the government's intentions are in regard to Agriculture Canada officials. Are they going to be reduced and the number of private citizens increased to do these inspections? Of course we do not know how many of these civilians are available to Agriculture Canada, what training they have and what authority they will actually have in the inspection of plants coming into or leaving our country.

Government Orders

We do not really know from this bill where the national interest begins and where the local responsibility leaves off. We will have to determine that point because many people could be left in dire financial straits if through no fault of their own a disease or a pest happened to be introduced to their farm. Hopefully, at the committee stage we will be able to get the answers so that we can improve this very important bill.

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond—Child care; the hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk—Trade; the hon. member for Trinity—Spadina—Immigration.

[*English*]

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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[*Translation*]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to consideration of the report stage of Bill C-51, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act, as reported (without amendments) from a legislative committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Madam Deputy Speaker: For the report stage of Bill C-51, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the *Notice Paper* indicates only one motion to amend, in the name of the hon. member for Essex—Windsor. This motion is in order. The House will now proceed to consideration of motion numbered 1.