Government Orders

● (1240)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I declare the motion carried.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EXCISE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of 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, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance.

Mr. Speaker: Two hon. members, the minister and the House leader of the New Democratic Party are both rising on a point of order. The hon. minister.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I could perhaps be helpful by being a little anticipatory here.

Yesterday, in my anxiety to make sure that the opposition was forewarned as soon as possible, one of my colleagues put forward notice under Standing Order 78(3), on advice that it was appropriate. That now seems to be the subject of question. Since I do not intend to proceed with the motion under Standing Order 78(3) today, it is really academic, and I will ensure that prior to it being moved, unless the opposition prepares to co–operate under Standing Order 78(1) or 78(2), I will provide the appropriate notice.

If that is a point of order, I just want to make sure that there is no dispute on this side of the House.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, this is a disappointment. I had a long procedural argument and stayed awake most of the night writing it. I am disappointed that I will not have a chance to make it. The government gave notice yesterday. It was inappropriate and a highly unusual turn of events. I thought it was actually a decision that the government had made, but I take the word of the Government House Leader that it was a mistake and the government should not have done

what it did yesterday. We will wait to see what it will do later today.

Mr. Jean–Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I rose in my place yesterday after the Minister of State for Small Businesses gave notice to the House, as recorded in yesterday's *Hansard* at page 10102. At that time I did make the point that the notice of motion was, in my view, not in order and should not be accepted by the Chair. Of course, Mr. Speaker I do not have to put the arguments to you since the government recognized how weak a case it had.

Mr. Andre: Sit down!

Mr. Gauthier: Maybe I will sit down, but I would like to make sure that the House leader of the government stops being so scornful of this House and treating us with disdain. I wish he had a little more—

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that if there needs to be an argument, it could be carried on elsewhere.

The point of order was raised by the minister. The minister has withdrawn the notice. The House leader for the New Democratic Party and the House leader for the Official Opposition have commented on it and that is where it remains.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: We are now in Orders of the Day on Bill C–62. I must advise the House that I have certain rulings to make with respect to motions by way of amendment, which were filed up to the close of the *Notice Paper* at seven o'clock last night.

There are 90 motions in amendment set down on the *Notice Paper* for the report stage of 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. I have reviewed the motions and am now ready to make a ruling.

As hon. members will note, there are 68 motions in amendment standing in the name of the hon. member for Gloucester which seek to delete a separate clause of the bill, including the Schedule and the Title.

The effect of debating these motions, as I commented upon in a similar situation with respect to Bill C–20, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act on October 10, 1989, is that the House will be virtually proceeding through a repetition of the second reading