

Routine Proceedings

every agency which finds itself required to put before the public and before the House of Commons information regarding their programs in the Part IIIs of the Estimates.

The Part IIIs are well done. They are a great improvement over the huge blue book which you, Mr. Speaker, would have had when you first came to this House of Commons. However, after a while they have a tendency to disintegrate to a certain extent.

We made another series of recommendations in which I think this House should concur. Those recommendations relate to the control of animal and plant disease. These recommendations are mostly relative to export, but they could go much further than that if it was required by the Department of Agriculture.

At the moment, as far as the environment is concerned, we are being faced with a need to have very specific recommendations relative to the health of animals and animal disease. If you have been watching the news, you will have seen that there have been recommendations that the bison herd in Buffalo National Park in northern Alberta be slaughtered to ensure that there will not be a spread of brucellosis.

That is internal. We made recommendations in this report which I think should be concurred in, that the government give early consideration to the introduction of amendments to be sure that the imports of animals and plants be controlled better than it is. In the last little while I have had a lot to do with the importation of goats from Australia and I have found that you cannot bring goats into Canada from Australia because the regulations for such a procedure are not in place.

• (1300)

What we were talking about or recommending in this particular report is that those regulations to be put in place, reviewed, and brought up to date.

I call on the House to concur in the recommendations in this report that the Public Accounts Committee put before this House in the third report.

Mr. Riis: I, too, would like to support the suggestion that we concur in the report. It is an important report, as the hon. member for Saskatoon—Humboldt has outlined.

There are two points that I would like to—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Cooper: I am not certain, but the way that the hon. member began his remarks led me to believe that he was entering into debate rather than questions or comments.

He is asking questions or making comments. That is fine then, Mr. Speaker. I just want to signal my intention to enter the debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair gave the floor to the member for Kamloops on questions and comments.

Mr. Riis: Perhaps my opening comments led my hon. friend to believe I was launching into a 20-minute speech. Such is not the case. However, I have two questions, one regarding sheep from Australia and another regarding deer from New Zealand.

Some time ago there was a project where people from Australia were intending to bring live lambs from New Zealand to the coast of British Columbia. At that point, they would be off-loaded on the coast of British Columbia and then fattened and raised in B.C. for eventual slaughtering and market.

One of the problems that this group faced was the whole matter of inspections and the fact that the lambs would be quarantined presumably for some time, and I am not certain of the details and that is part of the question to my hon. colleague.

This, I must say, caused a negative reaction from a number of the western sheep growers because they thought that this was a way of importing cheap lamb from Australia and would really provide some unfair marketing, as far as their own products were concerned.

I have a question for my hon. friend for Saskatoon—Humboldt first of all. Does he feel that the regulations, as they presently exist when it comes to sheep being imported into a country, need to be updated and brought into a more modern context to recognize the more recent diseases and some of the problems faced with increasing importation of live animals? Are there any