

customer, limit the cuts which can be made without affecting customer service.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, I believe that Bill C-20 provides a balanced albeit temporary solution to the current financial difficulties being encountered by the Federal Business Development Bank. The balance has been achieved because, on one hand, the bank is not burdened with excessive debt and, on the other hand, the bank's customers, the small businessmen, have not been hurt by improving the bank's position. In recent months, however, it has experienced problems in exercising its mandate to the fullest possible extent. We must give them the tools to get the job done and I urge the support of all members of the House.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

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[Translation]

LIVESTOCK FEED ASSISTANCE ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Hon. Yvon Pinard (for Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-15, to amend the Livestock Feed Assistance Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, be concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pinard moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

He said: Mr. Speaker, at this stage of the third reading of Bill C-15 I want to refer very briefly to what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) said on second reading. I want to thank hon. members on both sides of the House for their co-operation on this bill at the committee stage in bringing back this bill as rapidly as possible before the House, and I do hope that tonight before the time of adjournment we will be able to give it third reading and start the second reading of Bill C-22 in the name of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) who will be here in a few moments. All that to point out that the purpose of the amendments to the Live stock Feed Assistance Act being requested in Bill C-15 are to bring the Yukon and the Northwest Territories within the scope of the provisions concerning transportation costs. So I would not want to prolong the debate further because I would like to allow some of my colleagues on the other side of the House to speak, with the hope however we can once again give this bill third reading in very short order before the adjournment tonight.

Livestock Feed Assistance Act

● (2040)

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the government House leader meant to include the Yukon as well as the Northwest Territories in his explanation of the bill. He did not say so, however. That was not what came over on the translation.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had mentioned the Yukon in French. I want to make sure it is clear that these amendments to the Livestock Feed Assistance Act would bring the Yukon, as I said in French, and the Northwest Territories within the scope of the bill.

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to take part in this debate. We intend our remarks to be very brief, as is usual with members of the agricultural committee. I have always felt that when it comes to agriculture, whether in this House or in committee, members of the agricultural committee, regardless of their political affiliation, co-operate in order to get bills through as quickly as possible.

We support this bill because it extends the provisions of the Livestock Feed Assistance Act to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The Yukon territorial government has been asking for this since 1975 and it is something that our party has sought for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories for many years.

I remember going up to the Territories in 1974 and being met by a delegation which was very anxious to see agriculture expanded in the Territories. It is unfortunate that it has taken so long to bring this bill before the House because, as I said, the government of the Yukon asked for it in 1975.

Basically, the bill should not be required. It is required however because federal government restrictions over the years have made it impossible for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon to develop a viable agricultural base. The potential is there. There is rich agricultural land in the Mackenzie Valley, the Liard River Valley and other valleys. Studies going back almost 75 years indicate the richness of the soil and the potential that is there. About ten or 12 years ago a comprehensive study was made which indicated that potential and the richness of the soil.

About 1972, members of the Indian affairs committee questioned the Minister of Indian affairs and northern development and asked why he was not allowing the development of agriculture in the two northern territories. He said they were busy doing a study. It was pointed out to him that a comprehensive study had been done by the Department of Agriculture five years before then, but he was not aware of it.

It is interesting that it was not until the Conservative government came into power in May of 1979 that an undertaking was given to allow the development of agriculture and recreational land in the territories. That undertaking was to go into effect this summer, but I gather that the present government is not prepared to carry it out.