

Insurance Plan amounts to more than the Saskatchewan Government's total budget. So when they say that we are not doing anything, just let them face the facts of how many things we are doing.

The way that the Farm Credit Corporation is working, we have just moved into the market and borrowed \$50 million on the private money market that we will be loaning into the different areas, and the arrangement with the Saskatchewan Government is that they are subsidizing that themselves to the tune of down to eight per cent. In co-operation with the Province of Saskatchewan, we are doing that kind of thing.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, he huffs and he puffs, and I think he blew his own house down after all of that.

ROYAL BANK PROPOSAL TO SEIZE FARMS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, let me put my question very specifically. The Minister knows that the Royal Bank has a policy in place where it is going to take over farmland and lease it back to farmers. That is the kind of move that will introduce sharecropping into Canada in the 1980s.

I want to ask the Minister why he does not stop that immediately by bringing forward his backbencher's version of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act which will prohibit banks from foreclosing on farmers and enable family farmers to stay on their own land and continue with food production during these difficult times.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I would hope that the Hon. Member would also check some of the things that the Farm Credit Corporation has done, working with the private lending institutions in making special arrangements with many farmers. In some instances they have not made a payment for three and going on four years, and we have not taken over their property.

• (1430)

Under the Bank Act, the Royal Bank can only hold a piece of property for so long. It cannot, as the Hon. Member says, be the landlord in perpetuity. It can only hold the land for a certain length of time, and then it has to be turned back into the private market so that someone can buy it if they wish. The Royal Bank admits that 5 per cent of its rural customers are in a real rough economic position. The Bill drafted by my colleague from Lambton-Middlesex is worthy of consideration. It is receiving deep and concerned consideration at the present time. The principle of that Bill was used once before in the history of this country. The principle is very good.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AIR CANADA

STATUS OF SEAT SALE

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the dispute between the Canadian Government and the United States Government concerning discount rates for passengers booking Air Canada flights to the United States, perhaps the Minister of Transport could inform the House about the outcome of his discussions with the U.S. Government and what chances or assurances Canadians who purchased seat-sale tickets have of travelling via Air Canada this week-end.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, yesterday and the day before, we talked for several hours, on the spot in Washington and on the telephone, about Canada's proposal. We left our proposal on the negotiating table, and it has not been accepted by the Americans. The situation is therefore as follows: people who are very realistic about the matter have obtained a refund or have decided to go elsewhere in Canada, patriotic Canadians have decided to go elsewhere in Canada, the more adventurous have decided to wait because Air Canada representatives are considering the possibility of offering discount rates to other places where there is sun too, and the real optimists hope that the court injunction that Air Canada is going to try to obtain today will be successful or that the Americans, after thinking it over, will come up with some new ideas with respect to the proposal we made yesterday. I think it was a good proposal, and they should have accepted it many hours ago.

[English]

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER TALKED TO UNITED STATES COUNTERPART

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, as reported at page 23330 of *Hansard*, the Minister said that the system of sales and discount sales "is a predictable system". Will the Minister tell the House how the 100,000 Canadians who are directly affected by the regulatory fight between Canada and the United States can predict anything and make plans with certainty? In seriousness, has the Minister yet talked to his counterpart, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Elizabeth Dole, and not some flunky with the CAB? If he has talked to her, what has been her answer to this prohibition of CAB on an issue where the CTC is left out to dry, and so are innocent Canadian people?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, there are two aspects to the question. One is with respect to the *modus operandi* in cases of special discount sales. I repeat what I said to my friend yesterday. The formula is first you advertise, second you file, and third, you sell the seats. With that I think he agrees. The subject of linkages is one that we find not acceptable. Is that what my hon. friend wants to know?