

Farm Credit Act

that limit by giving his guarantee. Neither could the Indians take advantage of the normal process under which co-ops, farm corporations and family farm units dictate the number of units that are involved. In my opinion the Indian farm population will not have the same advantages under this act as other farmers who are living off the reservations and who are outside the restrictions that are imposed on Indian bands.

I suggest that members on the other side of the house will have to consider seriously whether this restriction should be imposed on our Indians. The Indian affairs branch is investigating this whole question and they should be given the right to decide how Indian bands can take full advantage of this legislation in the same way as Indians who are not members of a band and can put up their own security and draw up to \$40,000 in their own right. I am sure that many others will speak on this subject. I think that the best action they can take is to support the amendment.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I wish to direct a question with regard to the \$100,000 that is available to any corporate farm. Specifically I wish to talk about how this provision will affect Indians. Does the minister not realize that in this bill Indians are faced with three penalties? The minister's remarks were nothing but window-dressing. Indians who engage in corporate farming are responsible not only for their own \$100,000 but they must guarantee the band's share of money. In addition they must turn over one-sixth of their crop to the band. References to Indian partnerships are nothing but window dressing, and considering the remarks of the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo last evening I want to know whether he is satisfied with the minister's approach to this matter.

Mr. Olson: In this legislation no restrictions apply to an Indian that do not apply to any other citizen of Canada.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Yet a few moments ago the minister clearly said that individual Indians who engage in corporate farming are responsible not only for their own share of the money but for the band's share also. The regulations governing Indian bands require such farmers to turn over to the band one-sixth of their crops.

Mr. Pringle: Mr. Chairman, since I come from an area which contains many Indian reservations I am interested in this clause and in the amendment. I appreciate the arguments and recommendations submitted by members of the opposition, but I wonder whether we are looking at this matter in the correct light. Are we debating an Indian bill or a farm credit bill. Since we are debating a farm credit bill, is there not a danger that we may discriminate against those who are not Indians?

I am sure many hon. members have borrowed money. When corporations borrow money the words "personal guarantee" are frequently heard. The directors of a corporation guarantee a loan jointly and severally. If we remove the ceiling on any money that may be advanced to our Indian population, are we not discriminating against those who are not Indians and not entitled to the same privilege? Parliament can allot only so much money to the Farm Credit Corporation. The amount is not unlimited. I therefore suggest that we ought to treat everybody equally and not discriminate against those who are not Indians.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am confused by the minister's most recent remarks. Does he not consider the ownership of land as the basis for any guarantee that is given to the corporation with respect to money lent? Yet individual Indians in a band do not own individual parcels of land. Has the minister considered that? Is there not a difference under this legislation between the Indian who individually owns no land and a man who does own land?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no difference so far as the law is concerned. The hon. member may know that because of provisions with regard to Indians in bands giving security we are making a provision that will enable farmers who are Indians to give security with regard to the land that they farm in virtue of other acts. In other words, as a result of action taken by the minister of Indian affairs, Indians will have access to services available to everybody.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I do not know that at all. I do not think the Farm Credit Corporation can obtain a deed to a piece of reservation land. That land is not held by the Indians themselves but by the minister of Indian affairs for the crown. Though an Indian may have a share in the band's land, his share of 10 acres, 150 acres, and so on, does