

have a situation in which there are some anomalies in terms of freight rates, feed freight assistance and pricing policy.

The size of western Canada's hog industry has been reduced by about 50 per cent in the last eight years. Ontario's industry has increased by 35 per cent, and Quebec's has doubled. There are some distortions which are creating that.

We all know that input costs have increased dramatically. Interest costs are crippling beef producers. The Farm Credit Corporation is out of money. It cannot lend any more money to producers, and this government fails to act.

I moved a motion under Standing Order 43 in the House today. It was rather strange that all the Liberals involved with agriculture seemed to agree. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Ostiguy) and the chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture cheered me on and said, "Yes, yes, we are all for it", but nothing is happening. I asked on a urgent basis for at least \$150 million in increased funding, and I hope the government seriously considers that.

I am pleased that the government made some changes with respect to the Small Business Development Bond, and I commend the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussi eres) because I think he is a reasonable person. I think the small business development bond will be well accepted. I hope the government will apply that to unincorporated farmers as well as incorporated farmers. I hope the minister will still consider that, because there should not be any magic in applying for a Small Business Development Bond either as an incorporated farmer or as an unincorporated producer. I hope the minister will look at that, because I think we are dealing with the same kinds of producers here.

I turn now to the herd maintenance program. I have never seen a program as half-baked, badly-administered and grossly unfair as the herd maintenance program. It is really a charade; it is unbelievable. I was talking to a constituent yesterday, and he said, "Trying to get information from that infamous Zenith number is like approaching the Kremlin. First of all, it is difficult to get through, and once you get through, you cannot get any answer." There have been petitions. The area of northeastern Alberta including Lloydminster, Bonnyville, St. Paul, Two Hills, Vermillion and Vegreville suffered just as much drought and hardship as the areas which suffered in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There was way less than 80 per cent of the normal yield. As a matter of fact, it was 25 per cent to 50 per cent below the normal yield. Petitions have been submitted, and representations have been made. The evidence is clearly documented. Applications are in and appeals have been filed, but nothing has happened. We have an appeal board now. My colleague, the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields), moved a motion under Standing Order 43 recommending to the minister that someone from the northern part of Alberta be added to the appeal board. There is a gentleman on the board who represents the province of Alberta, but he hails from Taber. There really is a serious drought situation in northeastern Alberta, but nothing has happened. If it is intended to help producers, let it help all

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producers who were affected. There should be no discrimination.

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In my own way I have attempted to outline some of the areas which I think are crucial to economic recovery in this country. Some industries and sectors provide the impetus to build an economy that is strong, productive and provides jobs. However, all of this must be done in a climate of freedom where there is some flexibility for individual Canadians, so that people can be enterprising, innovative and able to participate in our growth.

There is a need for urgent action now, not only in certain areas and regions, but there needs to be a general rethinking of this government's total economic approach. At one time I thought this government was on the road to working with private industry and the private sector as a partnership. But it has certainly shelved that policy. That is most unfortunate. It is unfortunate that the approach of the current government is, in my opinion, destroying the political and economic fabric of my country. I do not like what I am seeing.

Unless there are some dramatic changes, I think we will see increased hardship, increased frustration and perhaps a deeper division between regions and between Canadians. It could result in some very serious implications for our country and for individual Canadians.

There is no question—and I am speaking as a westerner—that western Canadians want to participate in the economic social and political activities of this country. We have much to offer. We have demonstrated that we are prepared to share. We have shared in the past, and we will continue to share in the future. But, for goodness sake, I hope this government stops exploiting division in this country. I hope it will start governing as a national government, rather than attacking half of the country and governing the other half.

The election is over. Canadians recognize that the government has broken a lot of promises. But, now is the time to get on with the job, to provide leadership, both political and economic, because we have a tremendous potential; it would be a shame if we lost that opportunity.

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with attention as I always do to the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) who has just finished speaking. I regret that I was not in the House to hear his complete statement. Although it is not my intention to delay consideration of the bill now before us, I do, however, want to make a comment or two in response to his statement. He did make some observations which are not justified by the current situation. I refer particularly to the many questions of energy policy upon which he touched. I regret that time does not permit me to respond to all of them. However, I do want to emphasize that it is important that we keep in mind, as we look at the energy policy, that it does offer the private sector major incentives to develop in particular the offshore and the