

purchase machinery, food and clothing for their families, and commodities for their farms, and they increase the demand for consumer goods. In turn more jobs are created in the industrial urban centres.

One has only to read a newspaper or listen to the radio to realize that social difficulties are rapidly increasing in towns and cities. Crime, unemployment, poverty and pollution are heightening in our metropolitan areas. We must reduce the flow of people from rural parts of the country to urban areas until we can develop effective methods of coping with the concentration of population in urban centres.

There is something very fundamental, human, decent and economic about a viable rural community. We must encourage young people who wish to remain in rural areas to do so, by offering them proper incentives—perhaps some of those I have talked about today. We must not promote the present trend toward mass rural exodus and increasing urbanization, but must offer solutions to the would-be farmer and to the present farmer who may well be forced to leave his land and move to the city because his financial obligation is too high for him to meet.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Madam Speaker, I wish first of all to congratulate the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) on introducing such an important motion. As a matter of fact, he urges the government to amend very significantly the Farm Credit Act, so as to encourage farmers' children and other young people who are now living in cities and who are fond of farming to take up farming and ensure the survival of this important industry which is facing very serious problems, at least in my province.

It is a fact that farming has always known hard times. It is an industry which requires extensive knowledge and investments and where markets and incomes are not always reliable. Because of the whims of trade, farmers sometimes obtain reasonable prices for their products, but at other times they do not.

Recently, the Quebec Minister of Agriculture reported on the agricultural situation in the province of Quebec. It is not all that wonderful; In his report, the minister deplores the fact that while consumer prices have increased 18 per cent in 1974, the farmers' income had declined by 15 to 20 per cent.

In reading this report, one understands better the grounds for demonstrations that occurred in the fall of 1974, when farmers who wanted to show the seriousness of the situation wantonly destroyed good many animals in various areas of the province of Quebec. They wanted to make governments aware of their predicament and on the other hand to make consumers feel that farmers did not receive adequate returns for their products and that the industry was on the brink.

The government of Quebec has taken action and introduced certain measures to ensure farmers that they will survive a few months. However, that policy cannot ensure stability in agriculture nor can it help young people start up a career in agriculture where they could have possibilities and chances of succeeding. It is up to the federal government, for its part, to do its share and to modify the

#### *Farm Credit Act*

Farm Credit Act and grant loans on very reasonable terms.

Madam Speaker, I am very willing to support the motions put forth by the previous speaker suggesting certain amendments that would likely help the young people in their undertaking during the first years of operation. But they must also be assured steady income. Currently, the beef market is quite disheartening. Farmers rear purebred animals and are forced to sacrifice young calves at absolutely ridiculous prices. They do not even recover what artificial insemination cost them to get this offspring. Such is the present situation.

So Parliament has a very great responsibility in the area of agriculture and we must ease the task of those courageous people who in spite of difficulties still keep on doing their work in that field.

● (1720)

I worked for a good many years in agriculture. I am on good grounds. I have no exclusivity of knowledge, but I raised a family on a farm and I have experienced periods of progress, development and also depression. I could then realize how courageous and optimistic one has to be to keep on nevertheless. I am still optimistic today. I suggest to young people that there still is a future in agriculture, because I really think that population and governments are sensitive enough to take positive and quick steps in order to make sure that it will be possible for youth to live off agriculture and that those already established can keep on farming.

Madam Speaker, surely the government can do something in that area. Last week, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) announced improvements to the dairy policy. I had the opportunity, at lunch time, in the parliamentary restaurant, to talk with the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I thanked him on behalf of the farmers of my constituency for the improvement made in that area, and I took the liberty to ask him whether it would be possible to do something for cattle breeders who are going through many difficulties.

At the present time, courses are given in farming, training or retraining courses to allow those already on the farm to acquire new knowledge, to upgrade their education for better bookkeeping.

There is another important factor in agriculture. One cannot farm blindly. We have seen what happens in this regard during the debates of the special committee on egg marketing in October, November and December.

I therefore submit to the attention of the authorities this very special case, in order to convince the farmers, the producers, that there is still hope that the provinces and the federal government will do their part. Thus, we can still hope for the survival of this important Canadian industry, agriculture.

Madam Speaker, I also say to the young that while banking on the assistance of the governments, one must always do one's share. First of all, one must be convinced that work remains and will always remain an important element of success. I know days are very long on the farm, that holidays are also very few. There would be danger in changing that because it is not easy to entrust the care of