

*Supply—Agriculture*

know other provinces, including the province of Ontario, have received grants in similar circumstances. The province of Quebec recently made available approximately \$9 million in additional aid to the farmers of the Lake St. John area which had an excessive amount of rain in 1964 and 1965. Is the minister in a position to tell us whether that \$9 million has been implemented under the 1964 program that is dealt with here or will it be included in the new estimates?

**Mr. Benson:** As I understand this particular item, the \$550,000 is to finish up the payment with respect to the amount agreed to be paid to the province of Quebec. The federal government contributed on a 50-50 basis to payments made to farmers in drought areas. This is the balance to clear up those payments. A similar program was carried out in Ontario, as the hon. member will no doubt recall, and I think also in British Columbia.

**Mr. Peters:** I raised the question because in the Throne Speech in the legislature of the province of Quebec it was stated that an additional \$9 million, I believe, would be made available for the Lake St. John farmers. I presume, and I am only guessing, that this payment will be made under the joint program under which the provincial government makes a contribution on a 50-50 basis with the federal government.

I raise this matter because the province of Ontario has been very lax in their agreements with regard to the farmers and the assistance they have provided to them. While it may not be the responsibility of the federal Minister of Agriculture to extend the program, I would point out that many farmers in northern Ontario have suffered several years of crop failure because of adverse weather conditions and are not receiving the degree of assistance that is apparently available elsewhere. I thought that perhaps the minister was aware from the figures which have been presented whether the additional \$9 million being provided by the province of Quebec had already been applied or would be included in the forthcoming estimates.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, I really am not familiar with the matter concerning this \$9 million. I will bring the comments of the hon. member to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture who is very familiar with this program, and I will ask him to inform the hon. member.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Peters.]

*Health of Animals—*

40e. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$216,000.

**Mr. Rapp:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister whether this \$216,000 for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works and land is for the new veterinary college in Saskatchewan or is it for repairs or something of that sort?

**Mr. Benson:** This particular item of \$216,000 represents the extra construction costs of the quarantine building at Grosse Ile, Quebec.

**Mr. Rapp:** Is it the intention of the government to go on with the construction of the new veterinary college which has been approved?

**Mr. Benson:** I would have to raise this matter with the Minister of Agriculture.

Item agreed to.

*Farm Credit Corporation—*

90e. Estimated amount required to provide for the operating loss of the Farm Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966, \$1,160,000.

**Mr. Herridge:** I have just a brief question, Mr. Chairman. This item covers the estimated amount required to provide for the operating loss of the Farm Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966, and the amount is \$1,160,000. We have always considered this to be a very sound operation. Could the minister explain why there was an operating loss shown for this corporation last year?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this supplementary estimate is to obtain a parliamentary appropriation to compensate the Farm Credit Corporation for its anticipated net operating loss for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966, and thus enable the corporation to hold its reserve account of \$1,644,527 as of March 31, 1965, as security against the risk of capital loss inherent in any credit corporation.

Item agreed to.

95e. Payment to the Farm Credit Corporation for carrying out the purposes of the Farm Machinery Syndicates Credit Act, \$75,000.

**Mr. Rapp:** I have a short question, Mr. Chairman. Is this \$75,000 to cover the operating loss of the farm machinery syndicates under the Farm Credit Corporation or is it just an advance to establish farm machinery