

*Farm Credit Act*

We thank the Minister of Agriculture for his efforts in increasing the borrowing power of the Farm Credit Corporation.

That measure would have been better if the government had taken care of our small farm units, so that each farmer in my constituency especially could keep on working the farm on which many generations have toiled to make it more fertile from year to year.

If the exodus of our farmers towards the cities is to be stopped, if agriculture is to be taken out of the quagmire in which it finds itself today, the ideas put forward from this corner of the house should be acted upon, that is, we should first find markets for our agricultural produce, set adequate prices and, finally, if it is necessary for a farmer to ask for a farm loan, let such a loan be granted without interest but at cost.

In my opinion, those measures would give our farming community the impetus it lacks now. Then farmers would remain on the farms and maintain the tradition of family farming which has always been the pride of Canadians.

**Mr. Teillet:** Mr. Chairman, I have only one or two minutes and I do not want to delay the discussion.

(Text):

I find so few occasions to be able to agree with the Minister of Agriculture that I should tell him that in this instance I agree with him that we have probably exhausted the time which could usefully be spent in debate at this stage. But I do want to make an appeal to him still to consider sending this bill to the committee on agriculture; and if he really means what he says, I would tell him that if he wants to consult on this matter and wants to do the best possible thing which can be done in this instance, I think we should be given that opportunity.

**An hon. Member:** Waste time.

**Mr. Teillet:** I was about to say that the minister today gave us quite a lot of statistics, and I for one would not even pretend that I was able to digest them in ten or fifteen minutes, particularly as he attempted to do the same thing last Thursday, I believe, with an eye on the press gallery and an eye on the clock, when he suggested to us that we should vote immediately at that time, after giving us two or three sets of statistics which he knew perfectly well, given ten minutes, we could easily destroy.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Never mind the lecture.

[Mr. Boutin.]

**Mr. Teillet:** We have had a lecture for half an hour this morning, so you should not mind one for one minute.

**An hon. Member:** Not from you.

**Mr. Teillet:** Well, you are going to get it whether you like it or not. Mr. Chairman, I am trying to say to the minister, if he will give this question serious consideration, that we should be given the opportunity to discuss this bill in committee, where we can deal with all these aspects and the suggestions which have been made on this side of the house. If the minister really means what he said when he lectured us this morning, that he really intends to do the best he can for the farmers across the country, I do not see how he can say no to this request.

That is the only reason I got up at this time, but since my hon. friends across the way have seen fit to ask for a lecture, let me suggest something to them. The statistics used 25 years ago are no longer fit for today. It is like saying that in 1936, when we had a few less million people in this country, we should have eaten as much as 18 million people eat today. That kind of logic we have been accustomed to for many years from the Conservative party and are not surprised to hear it now.

**An hon. Member:** And today the dollar does not buy as much.

**Mr. Teillet:** Well, we will not discuss the dollar today; this poor minister has had enough to do with that and is probably in trouble with his colleagues now.

My purpose in rising is to make this last appeal to the minister seriously to consider this matter of sending this bill to a committee, where we feel we can give it adequate attention.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall the resolution carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No, Mr. Chairman. I have been waiting until all those people who wanted to speak about the farm credit aspect had concluded what they had to say in order to make a brief intervention to point out the fact that while we very much favour any improvement in farm credit which can possibly be made, we who represent fishing ridings feel that the same credit facilities should be available to fishermen as are available to farmers. In the case of the Farm Improvement Loans Act, there is corresponding legislation for fishermen under the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act, so that fishermen are on the same basis with respect to loans from the commercial banks, which are partly underwritten by the treasury. But there is no