

best efforts of Agriculture Canada and the Minister's office, they are not going to receive that money as quickly as all of us would have liked.

• (1650)

As mentioned by other Hon. Members, the fine tuning of this Bill has caused a discrepancy between farmers on opposite sides of the same concession roads that happen to be in a different township. The crop insurance figures from townships that are being used basically to calculate who gets what are showing discrepancies.

When bringing this Bill into the House today to grant extra funds, the Minister made the comment that this was an ongoing program. However, he must realize that that is not the accepted explanation in that this announcement, as he said, was interestingly made 11 days before the election last fall. The announcement was that the program would be cost shared on a 50-50 basis with the provinces. More than one province has denied that that consultation process took place. I feel that that should have taken place, and some of those other problems would not have happened.

The Minister also made the comment that there are approximately 4,000 producers who would be eligible if they had sent in an application. The Minister may recall some questions that we asked in the House, and also to some of the members of the ministry and the staff. In Ontario in particular, many, many producers did not receive their form until the deadline was past. I put out two press releases in my riding encouraging producers to make sure they put their application in, and that the Minister has stated that he will honour those. I respect and appreciate that fact. However, there were producers who received the application, looked at the date on the application which they sometimes received weeks after the deadline, did not notice the press release, and there was nothing on the application stating that even though the application was received late, it should be still sent in, and now another deadline has past.

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We worked hard to advise the producers. That money is needed by the farmers, it is owed to the farmers, and they deserve it. We worked hard, but there were producers who decided that it is too late and there is no use sending in the application, so I lost on that one.

I support the Bill. I am sure in hindsight that the Minister and his staff will look at how this was handled. The phone lines were busy and it was difficult. However, I will not hold up the debate in discussion any longer in order that we can pass this Bill and the farmers can receive their money.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board on a short comment.

Mr. Crosby: By way of a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before we move to Committee of the Whole House and following second reading, I simply wanted to state that officials may be available, but the Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds) (Mr. Mayer) is present to answer questions, and I do not believe it is necessary to have the officials.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and the House went into Committee thereon, Mr. Paproski in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. House in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-35, an Act for granting Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 1990.

On Clause 2—

Mr. Speller: I have a question, and I am not sure if it relates to Clause 2. Clause 2 mentions moneys being drawn out. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the situation in the riding of Haldimand—Norfolk where many farmers in my area have been flooded out. Most of those people have not been able to get their crops in. I wonder if any of these moneys, or if other moneys are available, to help those farmers out of this tough situation. The Minister may be aware that many of those same farmers suffered a drought last year. This year they