

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRI-BOND PROGRAM

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Madam Speaker, since the Government has repeatedly refused to provide the Farm Credit Corporation with sufficient funds to honour the many loan applications of Canada's struggling farmers, it must at the very least implement an agri-bond program immediately. In fact the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) said at one time that he personally supported the concept of agri-bonds to finance more credit for farmers at reduced rates. But he said that in March of 1982. If it is now more than a year later and Canadian farmers are going bankrupt in record numbers while the Government drags its feet. Need I remind the Government that close to 300 farmers, including 35 in my home Province of Manitoba, have gone bankrupt so far this year?

● (1410)

To make the agri-bond program work, we suggest that the Government offer tax exemptions or reductions to encourage farmers and others to loan their savings to the FCC and the agri-bond program, with a capital gains tax waiver if the taxable portion is invested for not less than five years.

The Minister of Agriculture has said that he generally supports the idea. Farmers certainly support it, and we in the Progressive Conservative Party have long supported it. All that remains is for the Cabinet to make it a priority. Canadian farmers do not need any more of the Government's empty words. They need action.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

MULTIPLE WARHEAD MISSILES

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Madam Speaker, a MIRVd missile is one with multiple independent re-entry vehicles, or warheads. Each warhead is capable of attacking a separate target. For example, one MX Missile with ten warheads could destroy ten Soviet cities.

A U.S. Congressional budget office study indicated that the U.S. will be getting rid of 143 Titan and Minuteman III mark 12 missiles, with a total of 343 warheads, between 1983 and 1988.

Under the build-down proposal of President Reagan, when two missiles would be destroyed and one missile would be added, there would be a net loss of 72 missiles—sounds good! The 343 warheads contained on the Titan and Minuteman missiles would be replaced by 710 warheads on the MX, for a net gain of 367 silo-busting warheads. Some build-down!

There have been on both sides all kinds of meaningless offers, especially when the super powers are replacing used, old and obsolete weapons like the Titan or the S.S. 4s and 5s, and 11s to impress the world that they are both serious about nuclear disarmament. It is time that the middle powers convey

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in the strongest possible terms the idea that this kind of spurious bargaining is unacceptable and does nothing but allow for a never-ending dangerous increase in nuclear weaponry.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

NECESSITY TO HELP FARMERS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, last summer, the Farm Credit Corporation asked our permission to borrow \$600 million on the financial markets, but the Minister of Finance refused to authorize more than \$250 million. I may add that many farmers have benefited from the temporary 4 and 5 per cent interest rate programs, but this was only for a two-year period, starting November, 1981. Madam Speaker, you will therefore understand the emphasis on the desirability of Government assistance to farmers, when we are discussing farm loans.

Madam Speaker, I deplore the lack of interest shown by the Minister of Agriculture and the entire Government for the problems and difficulties with which many farmers will be faced starting this year, when the temporary programs are about to expire and these farmers will have to go back to interest rates of 16¾ per cent. Madam Speaker, in the circumstances, I trust my representation to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) will help them understand the importance of this matter, and that they will show more compassion for farmers and a better understanding of the importance of the survival of agriculture in Canada.

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[*English*]

STATUS OF WOMEN

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MURDOCH CASE

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, October 2 marks the tenth anniversary of one of the most infamous cases in Canadian judicial history, the Murdoch case.

Ten years ago the Supreme Court of Canada denied justice to a woman who, as well as doing all of the housework and child care, did the haying, raking, mowing, branding and vaccinating cattle, and drove the tractor. Her husband argued that this was what an ordinary rancher's wife did and that accordingly she was entitled to none of the property accumulated by the couple's joint labour, but held in the husband's name. Shamefully, with the exception of Mr. Justice Laskin, the Supreme Court of Canada agreed.

As a result of this appalling case of judicial sexism, Canada's wives thronged to the women's movement. After concert-