

**Mr. Whelan:**—that we would open the whole program up. There have been over 20,000 cheques mailed to farmers out of 29,623 applications, according to the information I have, and more of these are being processed every day. The appeal board is just meeting. It has made representations to us about two major changes it wants. We may have to go back to Treasury Board to make those changes, and that would delay the whole program because it changes the spending of the money which has been appropriated. We are very conscious about doing that. We do not want to open it up that wide again, because we might offend other farmers who have not even submitted applications but would then say, "Well, I am also entitled to submit an application". This is a new program. I think it has worked very well according to the correspondence I have received. Western farmers are some of the greatest letter writers of all, and I have received very few letters—only compliments from them in the form of letters.

● (1500)

**Mr. Neil:** Madam Speaker, if the minister is not really in charge of the program, perhaps the Prime Minister would consider taking the program away from the minister in charge of the Wheat Board in the other place, and turning it over to the Minister of Agriculture who seems to have more of an understanding with respect to western farmers.

I understand the minister will be going west either today or tomorrow. Would he give consideration to discussing the problems with some of the farmers and some of the members of the appeal board? I understand there are still some 10,000 outstanding applications.

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, there are 10,000 applications. We have been lenient in allowing them to submit late applications. I understand they have even been receiving applications as late as this week, contrary to the rules and regulations. But, we still told them to accept applications at this late date. We are in constant touch with them; every day we are in touch with them in Regina.

I will be in Regina tomorrow afternoon for a couple of hours. Possibly the whole appeal board will be there. The two from Ontario, the three from Manitoba, the three from Saskatchewan and the one from Alberta will be there. While I understand two of them are in Ottawa at the present time attending the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting, they will be back. They are farm leaders in their own right; they are highly qualified people. If we can make some modifications without going back through the whole rigmarole of Treasury Board, which would delay the payments to farmers, we will do that. But it will delay payments if we have to go through that procedure.

### Oral Questions

#### FISHERIES

##### SPORTS FISHING IN ONTARIO—PROPOSED CHANGES IN DATES OF SEASON

**Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, I should like to direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. Many people in eastern Ontario are concerned about the proposed changes in the split fishing season in divisions nine and ten. Apparently due to the calendar formula used, there could have been a reduction in the February, 1981, season for lake trout from 16 days to nine days. In light of the fact that the Ontario minister of natural resources apparently amended the Ontario fisheries regulations under the federal Fisheries Act, affecting the closed season variation order on the lake trout and splake season in divisions nine and ten, and apparently forwarded these changes to Ottawa on or about January 6, 1981, for approval, could the parliamentary secretary advise the House if in fact this matter has been approved? If not, would he expedite and clarify this matter so that sports fishermen and businessmen, such as the lodge owners in my constituency, can be assured of a longer fishing season within the law?

**Mr. George Henderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I will take that question as notice and get the answer for the hon. member tomorrow. I am not familiar with that aspect of the fishery.

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#### FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

##### REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. What action is the minister contemplating with respect to replenishing the Farm Credit Corporation with adequate funding to meet the needs of farmers throughout Canada, particularly young farmers? If he is not anticipating any increase in funding to the Farm Credit Corporation, does he have some other program in mind which might be unveiled by the government?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, last year we lent over \$500 million to farmers. The majority of that—over 75 per cent or around 75 per cent—went to young farmers. We would like to be able to lend more. We are drafting new legislation which will allow us, when presented to the House—and the hon. member will have to be patient until it is presented to the House—to raise money from the private sector; that is the intent.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Madam Speaker, could the minister indicate to the House how much money will be included in this appropriation, and what rate?

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, if I could give the hon. member the information he wants as to the rate, I would