

Farm Machinery Syndicates Credit Act

cent devalued dollar. I would ask between 1963 and 1968.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Between 1963 and 1968.

Mr. Olson: These are current dollars, Mr. Speaker, but even if you take the figure for the first half of 1963 at \$1.4 billion, which happened to be the last part of the reign of my hon. friend's government, and then take the figure for the first half of 1968 at \$2.1 billion you will find there is a significant increase over and above the 25 per cent change in the value of the dollar, if that percentage is correct and I question that it is. That is the problem when you select figures and just average them. I suggest to the hon. member for Regina East that he ought to be fair with these selective statistics. We also have ways and means of looking at these statistics.

The hon. member for Wellington-Grey (Mr. Howe) asked why this amendment qualifying Indians on reservations for the provisions of the legislation was not introduced previously. I do not know what the answer is. I suppose we could also ask why Indian farmers were not included in the F.C.C. legislation when it was introduced in 1959 and 1960. I do not know why, but when we see these weaknesses in the act we try to correct them as rapidly as we can. Perhaps we could ask why this amendment was not introduced in 1964 and 1965, but I am grateful for the opportunity to bring it in now and I think it will receive general support from members of the house.

The hon. member also raised the question of farmers importing machinery directly from England. He asked us to investigate the reasons for the wide difference in the price the farmers were paying for exactly the same type of tractor on sale in England and in Canada, and how farmers could buy a tractor in England, pay the transportation costs and bring it to Canada at a total price substantially less than the price of the same tractor on sale in Canada. We are investigating this matter, Mr. Speaker, and we hope that some publicity will be given the results of the investigation, providing the figures that we have seen quoted in the newspapers are correct. If those figures are substantiated, then of course there is justification for some action to be taken to ensure that this equipment is distributed through the regular machinery distribution channels in Canada at prices in line with the prices in England.

[Mr. Olson.]

The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) asked why some grain dryers had not been purchased under the Farm Syndicate Loans Act. Several weeks ago I was informed of the exact number of dryers bought under the provisions of the act—

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, the minister may not have heard me correctly. I did not question why they were not bought. I said that under this act they probably could be purchased, and that its provisions would be useful for that purpose.

Mr. Olson: I thank the hon. member for clarifying that. I agree with him that not only is the legislation useful for that purpose but has been used for that purpose.

The hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) asked whether or not bulk tanks for milk could be purchased under the provisions of the act. If more than one farmer could use a bulk tank co-operatively, then I see no reason why the legislation's provisions would not cover such a purchase. However, this is a piece of equipment that each individual dairy farmer requires on his own farm for his own use. In a case where more than one farmer was going to make use of a single bulk tank, I see no reason why it could not be bought under the provisions of this act. In many cases, I do not think it would be a practical thing to do.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank hon. members for their contributions to the debate. We shall try to have the answers for many of the other questions raised when the clause by clause consideration of the bill is undertaken in the Standing Committee.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on agriculture.

FINANCE**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND EXCHANGE FUND ACCOUNT**

Hon. H. A. Olson (for the Minister of Finance) moved the second reading and reference to the standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs of Bill C-138, to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act and the Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act.

Mr. H. E. Gray (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the house will recall that I attempted to deal with the nature and background of this bill in some