

Farm Improvement Loans Act

hon. member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens) and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Evans), as well as the exchange I had with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) during the question period. It must be disturbing to Canadian farmers if they follow what was said—and I am sure they will—that the Bank of Canada is intervening with respect to the interest rate situation so that the farmers of the country, as well as others, are not going to have the advantage which exists today in the situation of interest rates going down. In other words, they are being denied the normal attrition of interest rates, which I think is important.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has been with me throughout my constituency, as he well recalls, and he met the delegation of farmers who are very much concerned about interest rates and how they affect them in their operations. I rise to commend that to the Minister of Agriculture as we give approval to his bill and the other one today. These are very important pieces of legislation.

One other matter which I am happy to see—and in this I join the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton)—is that the regulatory power is moving from the Department of Finance to the Department of Agriculture where it really belongs. I hope the government will take into account what my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain said about the appropriateness of gathering these matters in the department where they would seem to have the greatest impact and the greatest place.

I would be grateful if the minister would at least consider that in promulgating regulations under this bill to the extent that it is possible, consideration be given to the advance publication of any regulation that may be made under this statute, or any other statute over which he has jurisdiction, perhaps even in *The Canada Gazette*—I know that isn't family reading at nights around the dinner table, but in *The Canada Gazette* or in the farm publications, in this particular case—so that in advance of the impact on the agriculture community it will have the benefit of the opportunity to consult with the government with respect to the impact of regulations made from time to time. As the minister knows full well, that is an important part of the legislative apparatus and it is a part of the legislative apparatus which sort of sneaks up on people. It is not done here in the House of Commons. I wish he would take those two matters into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak just for a few moments in this debate on a matter which is important, and I hope that the speeches which have been made on both sides of the House today will indicate to an even greater degree than has been the case heretofore that the food industry does not begin at the refrigerator door. Indeed, there is a great deal of risk with respect to the food industry that other businesses and other callings do not face. We intend to give passage to this bill forthwith, and if the parliamentary secretary would call the next bill he has on his plate, we intend to deal quickly with that as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Motion (Mr. Whelan) agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being four o'clock p.m. the House will now proceed to consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills, and private bills.

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LIVESTOCK FEED ASSISTANCE ACT**MEASURE RESPECTING TRANSPORTATION COSTS**

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-15, to amend the Livestock Feed Assistance Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

Mr. Collenette: On a point of order, and just for the record, Mr. Speaker, I think we should agree to stand motion No. 1 in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall item No. 1 stand by unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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METRIC SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT**SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION ON VOLUNTARY BASIS**

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the introduction of the metric system of measurement should be done on a voluntary basis.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring democracy to metrication in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1600)

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): For too many years Canadians have been force-marched into a measurement system they neither know, understand nor, in my view, need. In addition, converting to metric has been an irritating, frustrating and very costly experience to many millions of people in this country?

I am serving notice this afternoon that we Canadian consumers do not like the way the previous Trudeau administra-