

Government Orders

could because it will likely be a long time before it comes back. We should have done a little more work on it while we are here. However, I guess 90 per cent of a loaf is better than none at all. We will take this today and maybe in less than a year or so from now a number or all of us on this side of the House will have the opportunity to complete the job that this government did not wish to do.

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I am taking part in the third reading debate today on Bill C-95, the act to continue the Farm Credit Corporation. While there are parts of the bill that do have merit, I sincerely suggest that this bill puts the cart before the horse.

I reflect back to my years of running a farming operation. When we wished to make changes, we always had to do a projected cash flow for at least one year or sometimes up to five years. We had to show to our bank that the loan could be repaid and we had to prove on paper that the revised operation would benefit our entire operation.

Here we are today making several changes to the legislation under which FCC operates and there are no programs in place in most sectors of agriculture—I say in most sectors of agriculture, I make exception with the dairy and poultry sectors—to provide the financial stability to repay the loans made to the Canadian farmers with any certainty.

I have spoken in this House before about the huge corporations which my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood referred to this morning, transnational corporation agendas as he called it. These are spelled out in the March 9 issue of *Farm and Country* tabloid in an article by John Muggeridge called “Agriculture Inc.”.

• (1620)

John Muggeridge shows in detail the concentration that is taking place in the United States that I have spoken about a good many times in this House, and how they are taking over the agriculture industry there. He also cites a study that I have used on many occasions by university professors William Hefferman and Douglas Constance of the University of Missouri.

The same names keep cropping up again and again in terms of agricultural production in the United States.

These firms are rapidly expanding into Third World countries and becoming a force here in Canada as well.

In the March 10 issue of the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, Jim Romhan in an article headlined: “Buying groups have clout with suppliers”, talks about the further concentration of various buying groups in Canada who supply the supermarket outlets and bring more pressure to bear on the processors and naturally then down the line to the producers. That pressure really results in the price discovery system in the marketplace not being allowed to function as it should.

We also relate back to May 1991 to a study done by the Library of Parliament for the agriculture committee of this House. It spells out what happened even in the Chicago Board of Trade in 1989 when the price of oilseeds took a dramatic drop.

I respectfully suggest to this House that until these problems of concentration in production and processing that we have in the U.S. for those firms now branched here in Canada are corrected, Canadian agriculture will continue to suffer. We cannot hide our heads in the sand and think that a few amendments to the Farm Credit Corporation Act are going to resolve the long-term problem.

Before lunch at the report stage of this Bill C-95, I made reference to the fact that our so-called self-styled professionals, many of whom are economists, continue to dream in Technicolor as they swallow the gospel of globalization and refuse to support the need for our marketing boards. They are ignoring the fact that the cost of establishing environmentally sustainable agriculture should be shared by all of society.

I would like to share that thought for just a few minutes because there are no better conservationists in society than the farm people themselves. But it is something they cannot practice if they do not have a return on investment, management, labour and risk.

We criticize countries in South America for cutting down the rain forests but then we look at Canada and see the small percentage of land covered by wood lots. I am speaking here of southwestern Ontario or other areas across Canada. Somewhere along the line there has to be a return on investment if that land is going to be put back into wood lots. I suggest to this House that we should select a species of trees that could be planted on these lands to give a long-term return to the landowner and a return to society in general. We know that trees add to