

Farm Credit Act

stand, I should like my colleague, the President of the Privy Council, to move:

That subsection (1) of section 17A of Bill C-110, An Act to amend the Farm Credit Act, be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"17A. (1) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Corporation may enter into an agreement with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the purpose of enabling loans to be made under this Act to farmers who are Indians on reserves, to farming corporations and co-operative farm associations the shareholders or members of which are Indians on reserves and to bands engaged in farming operations on reserves."

This does not change the meaning greatly, but the amendment does make it quite clear that for the purposes of the act corporations of Indians who are farmers on reserves, co-operatives, farming associations whose shareholders are Indians on reserves, and Indian bands are included among those qualified to apply for loans under the legislation.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I so move, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, there is already an amendment before the committee and I doubt very much that another amendment can be moved now. We do not intend to take advantage of the situation but I suggest that the committee might proceed to further clauses in order to permit my hon. friend from Crowfoot to consider whether or not he would be justified in withdrawing his amendment.

Mr. Olson: If the hon. member for Peace River would look at page 4, line 29, he would see that after the word "reserves" is added the phrase "and to bands engaged in farming operations on reserves". The amendment simply amplifies and explains.

Mr. Baldwin: I am not objecting to that. But the fact is there is already one amendment to clause 6 before the committee.

Mr. Olson: That amendment was lost.

Mr. Baldwin: I understand my hon. friend moved an amendment to clause 6—

Mr. Horner: Yes, that is so. No matter how sound the minister's amendment may be, it is out of order. If he wished he could move a subamendment to the amendment in my name to clause 6 now before the committee, but he cannot move a further amendment until the first is disposed of.

Mr. Olson: Very well, we will deal with yours first.

[Mr. Olson.]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. There is already an amendment before the committee. If it is the intention of the hon. member for Crowfoot to withdraw it—

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Horner: I wish to facilitate the work of the committee to the best of my ability, Mr. Chairman, but before I withdraw my amendment I should like the minister to explain to me the purpose of clause 6. Subclause 4 refers to the total amount of loans. Note that the plural form is used. We are dealing with more than one loan. We are talking about the total amount of loans outstanding that may be made to any one band under this legislation. It says "under this act", not under any other clause of this act or under clause 6, the amount shall not exceed \$100,000. This is what I should like to have a definition of. If it does not mean what it says or if I am reading something into it that is not there, I wish the minister would explain it. It refers to the total amount of loans to any one band. It does not say that the loans are made singly to one band. As I interpret it it says that the total amount of loans within one band shall not exceed \$100,000. If it does not mean the total amount of loans within the band then I believe this should be clarified. The way I read it it says under this act and not under any particular clause. I am very anxious to get this bill through tonight and therefore I do not wish to belabour this point. If the minister can explain how I am misreading this then I might be prepared to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Olson: The reason subclause 4 is there and the reason the expression "Indian bands" is used in the other clauses is so that the band itself, whether large or small, can in the name or identity of the band itself borrow up to \$100,000. This gives them the same rights as any other corporation. Because there is some question concerning whether a band could be considered to be a corporation, co-operative, partnership, and so on, we have included in section 17A (1) of clause 6 and in two or three other places the provision that the band, as a legal entity, can in fact borrow as much as any other corporation. Clause 4 simply says that the upper maximum of \$100,000 will apply also to a band. I repeat again that in addition to the funds that could be lent to a band as an entity—

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with the first amendment.