

I note that in Part III of the 1990-91 Estimates for Agriculture Canada in Figure 2, page 1-7, we have a very strange and I think somewhat misleading set of data which are very hard to credit. I think it leaves an extremely wrong impression concerning the appropriations by the government to the portfolio of agriculture.

I would like to refer you, Sir, to that table. I know you do not have one in front of you at the moment, but if you would look at the radical change that has occurred in the accounting procedures I think you will find that it leaves a very wrong impression with the House and with members who are attempting to deal with government Estimates.

Specifically, what the government has done is in the non-budgetary appropriations concerning the Farm Credit Corporation it has increased its share of the principal contributed to the Farm Credit Corporation. Our understanding is that the Farm Credit Corporation may then lend 25 times that amount.

For years the government's appropriation to that corporation has been shown as being the amount of funds that the government has contributed. But for this year and for last year they have suddenly decided to come up with some wildly inflated figure which they say is the revised maximum allowable borrowing levels of Farm Credit Corporation. That is very easy to do in the print, I am sure. But when you look at the table you are left with the misguided perception that the government is appropriating something like \$27 billion to the Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Corporation—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Mackenzie may well have a complaint. I find it very difficult to find that it is a point of order that I can address.

Having heard the matter that has been raised, which is of course a serious matter, perhaps the hon. member could have a discussion with someone on the government side and the matter could be resolved. I do not think it is something that as Speaker I can resolve.

Mr. Althouse: I realize you cannot resolve it, Mr. Speaker, but it almost fringes on privilege if members of Parliament whose duty and main job it is to look at the government's expenditure plans have a very great deal of difficulty in doing that, especially if the expenditures are

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presented in a way that is not of sound accounting practice and is quite misleading.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. member's concern. Again, I do not think it is a point of order.

The hon. member can of course pursue the matter in the appropriate committee, and perhaps he will do so.

A great many documents are produced in this place. Over many years I have heard abundant complaints about a good deal of them. I suppose that applies to both sides of the House sometimes.

However, the hon. member has aired his complaint. Other members have heard it. Perhaps it will be resolved.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government; and on the amendment of Mr. Young (Gloucester) (p. 8636), and on the amendment to the amendment of Ms. McLaughlin (p. 8644).

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When the House rose the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre still had three minutes remaining.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, what I was trying to present during the lunch period was the need for an alternate budget, a different way of looking at the economic and social landscape of this country. I tried to present a number of different and alternate ways in which the government could have organized a different direction for this country.

For the last three minutes let me just concentrate on perhaps one area in which we have agreement. I have heard the Minister of Finance say many times, and I agree with him, that the ultimate test is for the children. He talks often of how the financial deficit affects