

Farm Machinery

consideration the government has given to the possible effects of this bill. My hon. friend from Vegreville (Mr. Fane) called it political integration. I was thinking more in terms of removing a farmer from farming. Under the terms of this legislation it is only required that one person in a syndicate should be a full-time farmer; the rest need only be engaged in farming operations. We know the absentee landlord has been the bane of farming for a long time. I do not think it takes too much imagination to see the trend here. A person wishing to set up an operation to do custom harvesting for his neighbours cannot provide the elaborate machinery required. This operation, by the way, would not run the same risk with regard to weather, or the extent of the crop, as a farmer normally runs; at least, it would not be affected to the same extent. I can understand there are those who feel that this is one part of farming operations which is bound to be profitable. The capital required is only 20 per cent of the whole amount. A limited amount of capital is raised among those they intend to serve. Thus, at the same time they get people to help put up the money, bind them as customers and take a fixed rate for the use of the machinery owned by the syndicate.

I am not at all sure this is the type of farming operation we wish to encourage in this country. I am aware, although I am not a farmer, that there may be areas in which small farmers feel a need for some outside help at harvest time or during specialized operations. I do not pretend to know enough about farming across this country to speak without reservation but I believe the combined experience of the farm members of this house is such that the minister could obtain the kind of information he needs and the government could obtain the kind of direction it must have in order to solve this problem in the best possible way, rather than in a way which merely puts the best front on it.

I was intrigued last week when one of our members, I think it was the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Bigg), was asked a question by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Kindt). The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) in what I thought was a most supercilious way said: "There go the experts, quoting one another". Having been a member of this house for a few years now, and having had the honour of serving with members on this side of the house throughout those years, having seen what they have done through their efforts in this house for the western Canada agricultural position, having some knowledge of how it came about, I have

[Mr. Nugent.]

learned to respect the opinion of those members. If the Minister of Transport was being funny when he said the experts were quoting one another, I want to say very sincerely that those whom I consider to be the experts on agriculture in Canada today are the members in this house, who have demonstrated that they are experts in this matter.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I feel so strongly that to avoid some of the pitfalls I see in this bill it should be sent to the agricultural committee. A little more knowledge about the subject is not going to hurt us; a little more opportunity for the farmers to learn a lot is certainly going to help them, no matter in what form this bill is finally presented. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière (Mr. Paul):

That this Bill No. C-121 be not now read a second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the standing committee on agriculture for further study and report.

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I propose to vote against the amendment which has just been made, because—

Mr. Kindt: It has to be seconded first.

Mr. MacNaught: It has been seconded.

Mr. Francis: I believe I am in order, Mr. Speaker. I propose to vote against the amendment which has just been made, because I believe that the legislation as it is before this house at the moment has received due and careful consideration. I believe, after listening to the debate and after reading the reports in *Hansard*, that it is legislation which will help the farmers of the riding that I personally represent. I intend to support this legislation and I do not believe it should be subject to any further delay, which I believe would be the result if the amendment which has been proposed were to be adopted by this house.

This is the time of year when the agricultural fairs, particularly the fairs of the Ottawa valley, are in full swing. Last Saturday I had the opportunity of visiting the Carp fair, where I discussed with a number of the farmers present what such a bill would mean to them and how it would affect them. Other fairs are now being held, and I am sure this is an opportunity taken by many members of the house to meet with their constituents and talk to them about just how such a bill would affect them and what it would do for them.

I know that the bill embodies a new principle, that of extending credit to a syndicate