

*Farm Credit Act*

this bill helps toward that goal. I believe the minister should tell us clearly: I do not consider a farm to be an economic unit until it returns an income on such and such a level. Let the hon. gentleman make his position clear so that we may better understand what the Prime Minister meant in Winnipeg, and better understand what he refers to as an economic unit.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Godin:** Mr. Chairman, in the last few days the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) has introduced for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) a series of bills favourable or detrimental to the farmer, and one of those is Bill No. C-110.

Even though the ability of the present minister of Agriculture have never been questioned, I dare say that his way of piloting his bills ranks him among the four predominant figures of this house, even well ahead of the Prime Minister. (Mr. Trudeau). The Minister of Agriculture, as a head of family, has acquired a maturity which the present Prime Minister lacks. As you all know, the Minister of Agriculture is also a full-fledged businessman, because while the Prime Minister was travelling all over the world, the Minister of Agriculture was building a successful business in his own province, and the measly three years experience acquired in this house by the Prime Minister is more than compensated by the 11 years spent in this house by the honourable Minister of Agriculture, who does not have to learn about farming problems, as he is himself a farmer. However, in spite of all his knowledge, the bill proposed by the honourable minister creates a few problems. We are concerned about the bad effects the passing of this bill will have on the farm people.

It is unfortunate that the farmer has to be subjected, by a government which is on the payroll of the big financiers of the country, to a bill which will strangle the farmer and do away with him. For the farmer, producer of the food needed for the survival of human beings, there is no hesitation, after the elections, in introducing bills such as the one now before us. However, according to circumstances, it is possible to introduce other sorts of bills and for the purveyors of election campaign funds, there was no hesitation in getting passed bill C-191, entitled "An act to amend the Excise Tax Act."

[**Mr. Horner.**]

• (9:50 p.m.)

And for the information of the new members in this house, you might allow me, Mr. Chairman, to quote a few excerpts:

*All the following:*

Machinery and apparatus sold to or imported by manufacturers or producers for use by them—

A little further one reads:

—gasoline powered and diesel powered self-propelled trucks mounted on rubber-tired wheels for off-highway use exclusively at mines and quarries;

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I must remind the hon. member that he should confine his remarks to clause 1 of Bill C-110 under consideration, without referring to another bill recently passed by the house.

**Mr. Godin:** Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your remarks but I think it is important to point out to the newcomers the difference between the protection granted to companies which contribute to election funds and the way our farmers are treated.

Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we will have to know what profits the farmers will have to make in order to pay their taxes, I take the liberty of continuing the quotation:

—internal combustion tractors, other than highway truck tractors, for use exclusively in the operation of logging, such operation to include the removal of the log from stump to skidway—

are exempted from the 12 per cent federal tax.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the government is suggesting to its Minister of Agriculture unconditional loans, that is to say the farmers will not know now what interest rates they will be charged for the money they will have to borrow, for example to pay the sales tax on a third of the price of their tractors. It is not a secret for the farm machinery dealers—and the Minister of Agriculture is aware of it—that the farmers have to pay the 12 per cent federal tax on all the electrical system in their tractors, they have to pay the 10 per cent federal tax on what is called a grader. Those farmers who pay taxes on the purchase of farm equipment must think that they need profits to finance all that.

Farmers will have to borrow money to pay the sales tax on the hydraulic system, that is the system which feeds the plough, the harrow and all the other equipment. Mr. Chairman, the federal government sales tax also applies to that part of the tractor. It also applies to the pulley that is fastened to the tractor—the Minister of Agriculture (Mr.