

*Farm Credit Act*

to supply large amounts of farm credit before the whole future farm program is worked out. The government should concentrate on these research studies regarding loan repayment possibilities. Piling up credit debt is not the answer, although adequate credit facilities certainly are part of the long range farm program.

I would ask the government to produce its plans for lower machinery costs. As I said before, what about the promise of \$2 wheat as a guarantee for future sales? A large amount of wheat has been sold in this crop year at good prices, so there should be a great deal of the farmers' own money standing to their credit. I suggest the government make an interim payment now to the farmer growers. With assured markets for \$2 wheat and a good interim payment each summer, the farmers may not need \$55,000 loans.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support a program which will provide reasonable farm credit, but it should be only one part of the whole agricultural program. The complete program should have been made known before we were called upon to pass Bill No. C-100.

Mr. Speaker, those are all the remarks I want to make now, but I intend to make more specific comments when this bill is studied in committee.

**Mr. John Mullally (Kings):** Mr. Speaker, like all hon. members who represent rural agricultural ridings I am very much interested in anything which has an effect or bearing on agricultural problems of our farmers. First of all I think the minister should be commended for bringing this legislation before the house, as well as for the other legislation which he has prepared, some of which is already on the order paper. I am sure the minister has the confidence and the respect of the farmers everywhere in Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mullally:** This is very evident, Mr. Speaker, when one attends an agricultural meeting, discusses matters with farmers, reads the editorials in our agricultural newspapers, or indeed in any press in Canada. The minister is a farmer at heart, a very successful farmer indeed, with a deep knowledge of farm problems and I am sure he is able to bring forward many measures will be to the benefit of farmers everywhere in Canada.

The legislation we have before us at the moment, to provide amendments to the Farm Credit Act, is one of four measures being considered at the present time to assist

farmers throughout the country. With regard to the others, I would first refer back to what the last speaker said. He said we should have presented our program before presenting various pieces of legislation. However I think our program is very well known; it was made public to the people and to the farmers of Canada during the last two election campaigns. The people of Canada endorsed it and decided this was a very acceptable program and we are proceeding with that program. This is the first step. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, farm credit is not entirely confined to the Farm Credit Act; there are other methods of providing credit for farmers. I am thinking particularly of farm improvement loans. The minister has indicated that he will be bringing in improvements to this legislation as well. Also on the order paper we have a resolution preceding the introduction of legislation to deal with crop insurance. I think this is most important, to assure farmers that they will not suffer disastrous losses in the event of some natural disaster which could wipe out their crops. The minister has also announced that he will bring forward, as soon as the opportunity is available, an act to assist in the very difficult problem of the high cost of farm machinery; that is, measures to assist in some way to overcome the very difficult problem farmers are facing today with the high and rising costs of farm machinery.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think these four measures are certainly a good initial step in our program for rural Canada and the farmers of Canada. I realize there is much to be done. I am sure all those who have spoken today and who will speak in this debate are aware of this and have the same thought in mind. It is extremely difficult, as they are also aware, to bring forward in this parliament all the legislation one would like to see enacted. We have a very crowded schedule and some things have to take priority. We are satisfied that the minister is doing a very excellent job for the farmers of Canada. I think the farmers of Canada are aware of this and are showing their appreciation of what the minister is doing.

I would like to comment very briefly on the four main improvements this piece of legislation attempts to provide to the Farm Credit Act. First of all it increases the capital fund of the corporation to \$600 million. At the present time it is \$400 million. With the rapidly increasing use of credit by farmers everywhere in the country it has become necessary to increase the capital fund which is available to the corporation in order to