

*Farm Machinery*

from a bank, at 5 per cent interest. This would allow them to get their machinery much cheaper than under the terms of this bill.

What rate is going to be charged under this legislation? There is the cost of borrowing the money, a certain sum set aside for losses, and then a 1 per cent service charge. How often have you, Mr. Speaker, and all other hon. members condemned people for tagging on a service charge to the interest rate? Bills have been presented in this house and the other place, stipulating that the interest should be clearly stated as one item, without the disguise of a service charge. In years ahead if this service charge is not enough I suppose it will be increased to 1½ or 2 per cent. Why can't the minister say on this bill, "This is a good piece of legislation. It is an enlargement of the farm improvement loans. We want to help the farmers, not abuse them with something like a 7 per cent interest rate"? That is what the interest rate is going to be. Let the minister stand up and say if I am wrong.

**Mr. Hays:** Absolutely wrong.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Then how much will it be? I am prepared to sit down if the minister will answer.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Silence.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** The minister says I am wrong, but when I ask him what the answer is he remains seated.

**Mr. Hays:** Mr. Speaker, when we get to the clause by clause examination of the bill we will be very glad to explain this. We have been waiting now for pretty near a month. The farmers have been waiting for this bill.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** The minister again drags in this red herring about our having waited nearly a month. Why was this legislation not on the order paper a month ago? Why did he not break into the flag debate with it? His government would not allow him to bring it in. We asked for it every day—

**An hon. Member:** He was out auctioneering.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Maybe he was. You cannot blame him if he can make \$40,000, as he did on one auction sale a year ago. It is great money. At that time he said he never collected it—he just turned it over to the Liberal party. The minister talks about

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

our holding up this legislation. Why was it not debated last Wednesday?

**Mr. Hays:** Why do you not pass it today?

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** We may; we may.

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

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** The minister wants to put the blame on us for holding up this legislation, but in his speech last night he said:

However, at this stage I believe the farmers of this country would like parliament to pass this legislation. Let us get it into operation in time to help them plan for their spring operations.

Is the minister confused, as the Minister of Labour was a few minutes ago, on what month it is? We are still in September. Spring may start as early as March in some parts of the country, but that is a little while away yet, and if we do not pass the bill today we can pass it tomorrow. This hocus pocus that the minister continually plays with does not hold him up as a leader of agricultural policy, as a leader for farmers across Canada to look up to and respect, to look to for leadership in their hours of need when they are caught in a cost-price squeeze, when they are caught in the land squeeze, as so many of them are today.

Last evening we proposed an amendment to refer the bill to the agriculture committee. There is no need to get this measure operational until next spring. We do not want to pass it until next spring. I have suggested its aim could be accomplished under the terms of the Farm Improvement Loans Act. The industrial development bank has been making loans for similar purposes for the last four years. Our party, in moving the amendment it did, was in full support of the principle but we wanted to take a further look at this proposal. We are completely in support of the principle but we would like to refer the matter to the agriculture committee. This was clearly stated by my hon. friend from Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent). I am sure the party to which I belong would be prepared, now, to withdraw that amendment if the government would give us an assurance that the legislation before us would go to the committee on agriculture. I should like to see the minister stand up now and give us that assurance. I want to see this legislation applied across Canada in the best possible form. I want it to apply to all farmers, rich and poor.

The minister has confidence in this measure. He has nothing to hide. Why does he