

*Government Orders*

er, that voters in my region and elsewhere will say: "Yes, the bill may help us, perhaps, but the damage caused by this government is far greater than the benefits from the bill today".

• (1140)

[*English*]

With that I will end my remarks. It is my pleasure to support the bill and the amendment as offered by my hon. colleague for Algoma and seconded by my colleague for Prince Edward—Hastings, who also represents another fine agricultural constituency in this country and more particularly in the province of Ontario.

I am anxiously awaiting not just the outcome of the vote on this bill. We all know the approval the bill will get, but I am waiting to see other measures that will assist the farming community in Canada, which is living through a very difficult period. It has lost so much of its income and is struggling in spite of the fact it is working so hard to produce the food we all eat.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few short remarks on this amendment. I want to approach this from the point of view of an urban member of Parliament.

All too often there is a view or feeling in rural Canada that people who live in the cities, or urban members of Parliament are not as supportive as they should be when it comes to agricultural issues.

About three months ago in my riding, we put a display in the window of our constituency office that was designed and prepared by my colleague for Lambton—Middlesex. The display was titled "Compare the Share". This exhibit illustrated to urbanites, people who live in the city, the amount of money received at the farm gate for things like chicken, wheat, cheese and milk. Then we illustrated the amount of money the retailer receives. The dramatic difference shocked urbanites. They had no idea and there was little awareness or sensitivity to the amount the farmer receives.

There is another small store in my community called Hampton Variety store, which is run by a young entrepreneur, Terry McAdorey. As a result of this particular

exhibit he will not buy products from transnational agricultural organizations. He buys farm products from small family farms. The cheeses, stews, eggs and everything else are all bought from the family farm. He is doing this partly because of his own inner view, his own commitment to the fact that we must become more sensitive to the notion of community versus competitiveness. In my view this is one thing this government has really failed to achieve.

It has been so possessed by this notion of global competitiveness that it has really been following the transnational corporate approach. Nowhere has that transnational corporate approach had more impact than on the values and approach we now have in our agricultural community and in the agribusiness. It is practically a cartel of about five or six companies that are running the agricultural business in Canada. As a result, the few family farms that are left in our country are existing almost in isolation. It is almost like the life of a hermit and this has tremendous impact in terms of the social consequences.

• (1145)

I think we all agree there is a farm crisis in our country today, especially with respect to the family farm. This bill we are putting through today is an instrument of the Farm Credit Corporation to recommit itself to the idea of respect for the family farm. It basically puts community, community values and quality products against this singular drive for competitive prices and globalization, which I think is getting far out of hand.

I was reading an article in the *Catholic Register*, written by Marie Carter of Dresden, Ontario. The article is on page 7 and is called: "Today's farm crisis is everyone's concern". She made the point that only 3 per cent of the Canadian population makes a living from the land.

More than ever it is incumbent upon all of us as members of Parliament to speak out for those people. Hopefully we can reignite interest and concern in this particular sector of our economy. Maybe we will develop a feeling or an idea that this could be a new vocation or approach as we head into the restructuring of our entire society.