

*Government Administration*

On the other hand, those who take part in the discussion who merely want to strengthen their arguments in favour of or against a program, or who want to look at both sides of the question, could leave with ideas that have no bearing on the situation.

Furthermore, I do not agree with the principle of the bill. Should the bill be adopted, it would create a lot of administrative problems. First of all, it is true that section 2 of the bill stipulates that the law would not apply to documents on national security, or to documents benefitting from legal exemption, or again to documents of a confidential nature on business companies. It is easy to enumerate the type of documents. There should be someone in the department, some high official, some very important person, who would be in a position to establish what can be disclosed to the public and what cannot.

I think that, from an administrative point of view, it would involve extraordinary intricacies. For example, how can a civil servant in a department decide whether a discussion or a correspondence exchanged between a minister, a deputy minister or a civil servant of another country or province, can be made public or not? Therefore, the officials of a department would simply have to decide whether those matters should be revealed or not. As far as we are concerned, what will come out of it? It will not bring about much result, because certain information is already provided by the government.

Then, I am wondering how the provisions of the bill can be helpful. Obviously, to promote this administrative measure, a new kind of publicity is needed. A new reclassification of all departments would probably be necessary to bring together the factors that affect national security. Also, when we speak of business corporations, one must be very careful. There again a whole set of files would be needed for the various business corporations or various contracts or various communications.

I feel that all this would require tremendous expenditures and there again, I am wondering to what extent these expenditures are warranted. It is well for the government to spend money on worthwhile causes, but, otherwise I do not think it is justifiable.

As I said earlier, this would create confusion in the minds of people. The problem as to morale or frame of mind may exist in a department. For instance, if the Department of Area Development, that is to be established at an early date, was considering a

[Mr. Breau.]

plan concerning my province, New Brunswick, at least certain areas of it, we can be sure such an idea or philosophy as regards area development could be a good one, but there must be also some disadvantages.

Now let us suppose the problem would concern a civil service employee, or a person from outside is given the responsibility of preparing a report. He goes to a certain area and makes a report. He would probably bring arguments that may not be agreeable to everybody but they should nevertheless be taken into account so as to come to something worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, can we imagine a person bringing arguments against area development, against the development of a given area? Such a person might hang for that, there is no question about it. I repeat once more that the arguments put forward by that person may be good, but advantages or disadvantages must necessarily be considered.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It being seven o'clock, the time allowed for private members hour has expired. If the house agrees we will resume the business interrupted at six o'clock.

**FARM CREDIT ACT**

AMENDMENT RESPECTING ELIGIBLE CLAUSES, AMOUNT OF CAPITAL, INTEREST RATES, ETC.

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-110 to amend the Farm Credit Act—Mr. Olson—Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

**The Chairman:** It being seven o'clock, I do now leave the chair, to resume at eight o'clock.

At seven o'clock the committee took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Danforth:** Before we pass clause 1, Mr. Chairman, I should like, on behalf of this party, to make a few comments on the basic principles of this bill that were not covered at the resolution stage. One of the facts that is apparent in the bill is that the government has two prime purposes in mind. Number one is to broaden the base and to enlarge that part of the agricultural segment that would be eligible to receive these loans. Number two is an attempt to change the prevailing rate of interest that we have been experiencing as a