

*Farm Credit Act*

money in order to buy farm machinery or to help farm units, family or social units, or others.

When it is suggested that the interest rate be fixed at 5 per cent, these same people vote against the suggestion. That means that we have some professional hypocrites in the house. They are ready to blame the government when it introduces legislation increasing the interest rate, and when the matter is put to a vote, they vote against it. It seems to me that we should set the record straight.

As for us, we continue to say to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) that he knows the solution to the problem and that he can help the farmer. It is not by running him further into debt, that we will save agriculture.

When the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) suggested to the Minister of Agriculture to borrow or to allow the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) to borrow from the Bank of Canada the necessary funds or appropriations to help farmers, the *Créditistes* today are as justified as the former Social Credit member, now the Minister of Agriculture, was when he spoke likewise.

Mr. Speaker, those are the points which I wanted to draw to the minister's attention, because he knows that the draft of Bill No. C-110 leaves much to be desired. It is not the solution to the farming problems of Canada, and he should, since he is the minister, ensure the application in this house of what he has been advocating for some ten years.

[*English*]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Béchard in the chair.

On clause 1—*Farmer*.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. House in committee of the whole on Bill No. C-110, to amend the Farm Credit Act. Shall clause 1 carry? It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

• (6:00 p.m.)

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS  
TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the

[Mr. Caouette.]

time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin)—Canadian National Railways—Victoriaville, Quebec—Discontinuance of passenger service; the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton)—Agriculture—deterioration of situation on the prairies; the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Industry—Newfoundland—Proposed assistance for lumbering.

It being six o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper. As there are no private bills on today's order paper, the house will proceed to the consideration of public bills.

**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**

PROVISION FOR BETTER ACCESS TO PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey)** moved the second reading of Bill No. C-6, to better assure the public's rights to freedom of access to public documents and information about government administration (administrative disclosure).

He said: Mr. Speaker, after I introduced this bill into the house in the last parliament it was a matter of some regret to me that it never got high enough on the list of private members' bills to be given consideration on second reading. However, I feel it may be even more timely for us to be concerned now with the general ideas and principles which are set forth in this measure. On one hand we have heard statements from a high official source in the government to the effect that it is desirable for the public to become more and more involved in public affairs. Since then we have heard statements from representatives of the press to the effect that they find more and more difficulty in obtaining access to public information on behalf of the public. So it may be that tonight is a good time to take a good look at this proposal.

As the bill states, this would be an act to better assure the public's rights to freedom of access to public documents and information about government administration of public business. The bill is a short one, containing only four clauses. But it does embody the main elements of the legislation which has for so long been in effect in Sweden in this area. The first clause states:

Every administrative or ministerial commission, power, and authority shall make its records and information concerning its doings available to any person at his request in reasonable manner and time.