

they get the capital, they find they must spend 30 years or more paying off the debt. It is pretty discouraging having to look forward to working hard all your life just to pay off your debt.

The government should accept the fact that if we want to keep young farmers on the farm, we will have to subsidize their interest rates for three, four or five years so they may have a chance to pay off the principal before they are hit with high interest rates. Capitalization costs on farms today are upward of \$100,000, at interest rates of 7 per cent to 10 per cent so it is very hard to pay off any principal—hence the long-term, 20 to 30-year loans.

Mr. Speaker, here are some positive suggestions in addition to the suggestion put forward by the hon. member for Athabasca. I think the House should immediately approve this motion and the government should get on with positive policies, rather than just talk. Some incentive should be provided for young people, not only those on the farm but also those in the cities, who wish to start farming in the future.

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, listening to the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) outline the non-program of the Conservative Party for agriculture was most inviting and interesting. I am always somewhat amused that a party that lambastes the government, and justifiably so, on its agricultural policies should, whenever that government has enunciated a policy in the House, agree with it. May I point out to members of the Conservative Party that when the government set up its rigged and totally unfair vote on the rapeseed ballot this year, as was done by the Minister of Justice in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Lang), it was the Conservative Party that supported that kind of balloting and the Conservative Party that openly admits its ties with the open marketing system and agrees with the kind of finagling that is going on.

The second area where the Conservative Party supported government action in the last year was in the entire area of the marketing of feed grains and the new policy which has been so disruptive. Not only were farmers in western Canada upset about the operation of the agricultural products board, but the commodity exchange in Winnipeg does not know how to handle the new pricing mechanism of the agricultural products board.

Hon. members from Quebec who supported the minister in this feed grains policy are also terribly upset with the whole marketing and pricing mechanism now being carried out. This is the greatest disaster effected by any minister since the LIFT program was introduced, in terms of the marketing of grains within Canada—and that, Mr. Speaker, is supported by other spokesmen for the Conservative Party as well as the hon. member for Athabasca.

What do they recommend, Mr. Speaker? The hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) says he has three programs. He has one to get labour out on the farm. That may be simple where he comes from, but I say that you cannot take young men out of the unemployment lines and put them to work running machinery on a farm in Canada unless very intensive training is given to them.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Hurry up.

Family Farm

Mr. Knight: There is no way any of my relatives are going to let any guy off the city streets come out there and run their \$10,000 to \$15,000 tractors.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Get your punch line in.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, if we are to have a change, it must be when we go into a new session. We have to change and bring in some programs that will give a certain amount of security and stability to the farming population not only in the west but in all of Canada. That kind of move ought to take place on the basis of the kind of programs enunciated by the province of Saskatchewan and other western provinces when they spoke to the federal ministers at the western opportunities conference. There are suggestions of programs for agriculture in those submissions that not only can be related to the problems of the west but to problems all across the country.

I think some of my colleagues from Quebec and some from rural parts of the Maritimes had very legitimate complaints related to the whole question of agricultural policy and the fact that many of their producers—and this has been a learning process for me, Mr. Speaker—face severe economic problems which are sometimes far worse than those faced by many of the producers whom I represent. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hope this debate continues in the new session so that the hon. member for Athabasca and I will have a chance to go at it again.

● (1710)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[*English*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires to immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1720)

[*Translation*]

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

Bill S-7, an Act respecting The National Dental Examining Board of Canada.

Bill C-191, an Act to amend the Parole Act.

Bill C-135, an Act to provide additional financing mechanisms and institutions for the residential mortgage market in Canada.

Bill C-239, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1974.