

Government Orders

At the present time, the Farm Credit Corporation is actively disposing of land all over this country, normally to the highest bidder. In many cases it is a destructive force in a rural community. At the present time, the Farm Credit Corporation within its mandate really does not have much of an option as to how to proceed.

However, the co-operatives in this country, particularly the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, organizations like the Christian Farmers and others have proposed that we badly need a new form of land tenure, known as community land trusts. An organization, a group of farmers or members would hold land in trust in perpetuity and make their own decisions as to who should continue to farm that land. In other words, the control of who is farming land in a particular community would continue to reside within that community.

It is my belief and that of my party that the Farm Credit Corporation should be in a position to work with provincial governments and other organizations to perpetuate the kind of farm tenure and to make it not only possible but desirable to proceed in that kind of a way.

In summation, it is important we adopt this motion, both to provide direction as to how the scarce resources that the Farm Credit Corporation has will be allocated and also to give a clear signal that the people of Canada wish to perpetuate the family farm model, the co-operative model and the locally based community development model in organizing its food production for generations to come.

• (1045)

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend just a moment speaking on the amendment to Bill C-95 which is listed as Motion No. 2.

Essentially the motion is attempting to make some minor changes to the purpose of the bill which currently states that the purpose of the corporation is to enhance rural Canada by providing specialized and personalized financial services to farming operations and to those businesses in rural Canada that are related to farming.

The amendment that has been proposed in Motion No. 2 would clarify what sorts of businesses are being focused on by this newly mandated corporation. It says

that these farming operations would include family farms and those businesses in rural Canada, including small or medium sized businesses that are related to farming.

This is an excellent amendment. The corporation has to be focused on the small and medium sized businesses in rural communities. They are virtually 100 per cent of the businesses in rural communities in Canada today. We know by looking at the statistics of job creation across the land that over 90 per cent of the jobs that were created in the past number of years were created by those very small and medium sized businesses. So I think there is some advantage in terms of job creation and keeping communities viable to have as a mandate for the Farm Credit Corporation the focus of small business and medium sized businesses as well as the family farm.

However, when I look at the kind of rural communities that I know, and particularly in my home province, but as I go across rural communities right across the country, and I get to quite a few of them, I note that a great many of those communities depend in part for their business expertise and the methodology of doing business on the co-operative movement. It seems to me that a new and vibrant Farm Credit Corporation cannot be restricted in the nature of the small and medium sized business loans that it indulges in and that its purpose should also include the co-operatives.

Therefore I would like to include the words "and co-operatives" in Motion No. 2. I move:

That Motion No. 2 be amended by adding in line 3, following the words "medium sized business" the words "and co-operatives" in the English text, and in the French text in line 5 of Motion No. 2 following the word "entreprise" the words "et les coopératives".

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I declare the amendment in order.

• (1050)

[*English*]

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand today to make a few comments on Bill C-95, and in particular on the amendment of my colleague from Algoma that is being amended to a further extent.