

Supply—Agriculture

since the government changed in 1963? I am going to ask him now to give us the names of all barristers who have worked for the Farm Credit Corporation, the date they were appointed and the names of those who are still doing this work.

I think the minister will find that the pressure I have been talking about, which I am sure the minister has resisted, has resulted in quite a number of changes. In my opinion the accusation should not be focused on the Minister of Agriculture but right on the department of the Minister of Justice from where the pressure has been coming. In my defence of the minister I do not want, as he does not want, to try to stop any move to improve the situation but I suggest to the minister that if he is going to go into the Farm Credit Corporation he had better open up the whole bag. If he does open up the whole bag the record will not be too good. I am talking about the time before an attempt was made to try to straighten out the situation. I am just saying that before the minister starts making these suggestions about the Farm Credit Corporation he should know what he is talking about.

With regard to the letter from Mr. Nichols, which was addressed both to him and to me, I am glad to table it. The minister says he has only the faintest recollection of the letter, but then he went on to say something was done about it. I want to know what was done about it and whether the truth is that he has no recollection or that he did do something about it.

Mr. Hays: I am quite familiar with the situation regarding the farm loan board and the Farm Credit Corporation. The farm loan board was replaced in part by the Farm Credit Corporation and the 72 people to whom I have referred were employed to service the farm loan board from coast to coast. I am referring to the whole bundle, all of them.

With regard to the second question, as to lawyers that are working for the Farm Credit Corporation I would point out that information giving their names, addresses—everything—was tabled in the house about two weeks ago.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): I wonder whether the minister would answer a question regarding the change from the farm loan board to the Farm Credit Corporation. I know that at that time the situation in Manitoba was that city lawyers were handling the business under the Farm Credit Act and changes were made so that lawyers in the rural areas would be

[Mr. Hamilton.]

used for the convenience of farmers who were borrowing money. This has worked out extremely well and I hope the minister will not change this policy.

Mr. Hays: I do not think we intend to. All I suggested was that these lawyers were all given notice that they were no longer required.

Mr. Rhéaume: Mr. Chairman, before we interrupt the sequence I would remind the committee that the Minister of Agriculture agreed to table certain correspondence he had received in connection with the suggestions made by the hon. member for Yukon and I am wondering whether the Minister of Industry would also do the same. He made reference to correspondence he had received directly from the trade and he certainly referred to and read from an affidavit. He was asked to do so by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle and we have not had an answer. Under the rules of the house is it not necessary for him to table this document which has now become a public document and from which he has quoted one paragraph?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I challenged the hon. member for Yukon to produce an affidavit supporting the allegations he made and I said I would in turn produce an affidavit supporting my denials. I would be delighted to table the affidavit I have when the hon. member for Yukon produces his.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Rhéaume: The Minister of Industry read from a document which he alleges is an affidavit supporting his position and I insist, and I think the committee has a right to insist, that the minister table it rather than saying that if the hon. member for Yukon will step outside they will settle the matter. He read a paragraph from an affidavit which he says he has and we want to see the whole document.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, while I recognize that the hon. member for Yukon cannot produce his affidavit I will be glad to table mine and end this discussion.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago the Minister of Agriculture said that he plans to try to keep patronage out of his department. I should like to ask him one question. If there is no patronage, why was Mr. Lucien Blanchette, who was on the advisory committee and who lives in La Présentation, county of St. Hyacinthe, replaced by a man by the name of Lamoureux from St. Denis Sur Richelieu? I cannot give you