

**Mr. Whelan:**—these problems should be of more concern to the province. I met with the minister of agriculture for Ontario to discuss the urgent concern he feels in relation to how Ontario farmers will finance their operations this spring. Again I say, Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Lewis:** Let him go on, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Beatty:** Put the bull back in the pen.

**Mr. Gurbin:** Madam Speaker, instead of asking a supplementary question, it might have been better for me to let the minister continue to talk and to bury himself. He said two important things. The first was that the agricultural community is facing a 30 per cent interest rate for planting its crops. The minister knows very well farmers cannot survive with that kind of interest requirement.

Second, the minister also knows that—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. We heard the minister's answer. We need a question now, please.

#### PROPOSED MORATORIUM ON FARM FORECLOSURES

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, my question to the minister is simple. He knows that one of the members of his Liberal caucus will be presenting a bill respecting a moratorium on farm foreclosures. There will be some amendments to provide interim solutions. Will the minister support that, and has he been able to persuade the Minister of Finance to agree to that proposal?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, it is obvious that the hon. member and I discuss things very freely back and forth not only inside this House but also outside. The hon. member also discusses matters with the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex. We are well aware of the private member's bill the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex is presenting to the House. Yes, I do support the intent of that bill.

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#### THE CONSTITUTION

##### REQUEST THAT OFFICIAL COPY BE PLACED IN PROVINCE HOUSE, CHARLOTTETOWN

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to either the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State. The signing of the constitutional proclamation on Saturday completed the work toward full Canadian sovereignty launched by the Fathers of Confederation in Charlottetown in 1864. Given the close historic link between the Charlottetown conference of 1864 and the patriation of the Constitution, would the government give active consideration to the idea of making one, and one only, official copy of the proclamation, with original signatures, and placing it in

Province House in Charlottetown? This would mark the close link between the two great and historic events.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the suggestion of the hon. member is a constructive one. I have already heard it from one of my ministers. I had to point out to him what I point out to the hon. member: there have been other requests for such copies. For instance, it was put to me that—

**Mr. Pelletier:** Sherbrooke.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Apart from Sherbrooke there were requests that a copy be placed in the House of Commons or in the Parliamentary library, in the archives and another in the United Kingdom. At some point the number of original copies might be too great.

The Magna Carta was signed in four copies and sent to four corners of the realm. That was to prevent King John from being able to destroy them. In this particular case I do not think that precaution is necessary.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Watch out for René.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I can only tell the hon. member, as I told the members of my cabinet and caucus, who made equally valid suggestions, that we are studying the matter in a real way, and we want to see if there is some possibility of prioritizing the use of some copies without getting into a multiplicity of copies which, I take it, would call for Her Majesty the Queen signing—signing a great number of originals.

**Mr. Crombie:** Singing?

**Mr. Trudeau:** She could sing it too.

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#### AGRICULTURE

##### PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO IMPOSE MORATORIUM ON FARM FORECLOSURES

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister is supplementary to the question posed by my colleague, the hon. member for Bruce-Grey. Is the government supporting the private member's bill respecting a moratorium on farm foreclosures which the Minister of Agriculture says he supports?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I do not have information on that. I will have to discuss his answer with the minister and, as usual, be guided by his good common sense.

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Was the Minister of Agriculture speaking for the government when he