up to $3 million each? There are literally hundreds of farm co-operatives and if they all borrow $3 million each we would soon reach the limit of the funds available.

**Mr. Wise:** Mr. Chairman, we paid particular attention to that area this morning during our briefing session with the two opposition Members. The information received from the departmental officials is to the effect that this would not be a problem because we would start the program off with about $700 million. It is very doubtful whether there would be difficulty with a lack of capital for lending purposes even though we include the co-operatives in this Act.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

On Clause 12—

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to Clause 12. That clause says the Minister is not liable to make any payment to a lender in respect of any loss unless the lender has, at such time as is prescribed, paid to the Minister a fee of one half of one per cent of the amount of the loan or such other fee as is prescribed or calculated in the manner prescribed. I move, seconded by Mr. de Corneille:

That Bill C-78, be amended in Clause 12 by striking out lines 32 to 36.

That would eliminate the need for a fee under this Act.

Amendment (Mr. Foster) negatived.

**Mr. Althouse:** Mr. Chairman, since the House has refused to agree to any of our amendments which would do away with the user fee entirely, I would like to make one last attempt at an amendment in a slightly different direction, that is, to do what the House normally does and put a cap on the spending the Government can engage in and stop what I consider to be an open-ended proposal in this Bill at Clause 12(1)(b) which permits the Minister not only to be paid a fee of one-half of one per cent of the amount of the loan but which goes on to say:

—or such other fee as is prescribed or calculated in the manner prescribed.

I submit that this permits the Minister or any future Minister to go up to 1 per cent, 2 per cent, 3 per cent or 4 per cent, or any other per cent. That is not usually the role played by this or any other Parliament in enacting legislation. In order to avoid having this legislation come before the Standing Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments, which will find this Bill is not very well drafted, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp):

That Bill C-78, be amended in Clause 12 by striking out line 35 at page 9 and substituting the following therefor: "the loan or such other lesser fee as is prescribed."

By inserting the word "lesser" in the appropriate place the effect would be to place a cap on the fee to be charged.

Amendment (Mr. Althouse) negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

On Clause 15—

**Mr. Althouse:** Mr. Chairman, I would just point out to the Minister that we have at the end of Clause 15 wording which limits the amount of the Government's liability to 95 per cent of the loan. That is well written and makes it very clear that the Government will not be liable for more than that amount. I commend that sort of writing to him and wish he had done that with the rest of the legislation. The motion which was just defeated would have been consistent with the rest of the legislation, and I again point out that I believe the Standing Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments will eventually have to deal with this one of these years.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 25 inclusive agreed to.

• (1820)

On Clause 26—

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would explain why he is adding "or a farm electric system". Is there a particular aspect of the present legislation which is inadequate? It seems to me that the Farm Improvement Act generally deals with all kinds of farm improvements, whether buildings, equipment or whatever. Why is this amendment being made?

**Mr. Wise:** Mr. Chairman, electrification has always been eligible for a farm improvement loan. I am advised that the definition was changed in the new Act. The definition did not specifically refer to the electrification of farm operations. So, a special reference had to be made to amend the Bank Act consequentially.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 33 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Wise:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to take a few seconds to put on the record my sincere thanks and appreciation for the co-operation I have received throughout the day from my colleagues across the way, the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) and the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse).