

hon. member who represents the area. These matters should be of interest to hon. members, and they should be informed generally of what is occurring in the private sector, in the universities or in perhaps a private group of farmers working through their organizations which may be carrying on some unique research.

Results show that crops such as lentils, fababeans and a number of spices can be economically grown in the prairies. The first explorers on the prairies were searching for land which was rich in myrrh, spices and pearls. We are now able to produce some of those spices in the prairies. The researchers say that we can produce these spices and effectively compete in world markets.

We agree that the money made available from the prairie farm emergency fund should go into research, but there is a need to ensure this research is not a duplication of efforts. This is probably the only area on which I agreed with the hon. member for Prince Albert. Duplicating of efforts is a waste of money. Many times, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I sign agreements with other countries with regard to their research. I refer to countries such as Israel, Mexico and the United States. With many of these countries the agreement is based on a research exchange basis whereby, if a country is carrying on a project of interest to us, our scientists will work with that country's researchers and, of course, we reciprocate. This sharing of knowledge throughout the world can only help to better the life of mankind.

Research is readily exchanged around the world. If the countries of the world got along as well as their ministers of agriculture in exchanging research in order that mankind may have a better way of life, there would not be nearly as much trouble as there is in the world today. The government's plan will ensure that efforts are not duplicated. Agriculture Canada will be responsible for administering the revenues from an interest-bearing account that would be put toward research. In this way any duplication of efforts will be avoided. For example, this year I refused a new crop development program simply because there were four other stations conducting the same research as was being proposed, I believe, by the Palliser people. I believe that my refusal made them mad, but their program would have been the fifth such program.

This fund would be separate from Agriculture Canada's budget and would be maintained indefinitely to benefit western farmers. I can see a number of areas in which this new research program would benefit western producers. It could be used to support co-operative variety trials, zero and minimum tillage research, or to assess the potential of frontier areas for agricultural production. I am sure hon. members who watched the national news on television last night saw an example of such benefits. These are only a few possibilities.

Many people talk about the loss of land through urban and industrial encroachment. However, I am sure many people do not realize that most of the land in Canada which is lost is lost through salinization of the soil. Every year hundreds of thousands of acres are lost in this way; we must solve this problem.

Income Tax Act

Another exciting research project is being conducted at the Lethbridge station which deals with the "transfixation" of nitrogen with cereal grains. If we are successful in this research, it will mean millions of dollars in savings to people throughout the world. If a cereal grain is able to produce nitrogen in the same manner as legumes, clover, soybeans or peas—and our researchers say that it will come about—there will be tremendous savings in energy simply because nitrogen takes more energy to produce than any other fertilizer. Concentrated work is necessary in such areas.

Before any money is spent, there would be consultation with producers in western Canada on what type of research would be most beneficial. As the government's bill on this matter is still in the preparation stage, I cannot discuss the details at this time. Once again, I applaud the hon. member for Moose Jaw for his intent in introducing this bill.

Therefore, I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

"Bill C-245, to repeal the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, be not now read a second time but that the order be discharged, the bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Shall the motion, as amended, carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Accordingly, the order is discharged, the bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Order discharged, bill withdrawn and subject matter referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill C-54, to amend the statute law relating to income tax—Mr. MacEachen—Mr. Ethier in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.