

Government Orders

agriculture more viable and to work on value added projects.

I point out that Bill C-95 allows us—and I congratulate the government for this new addition to the act—to begin to co-operate to bring all our resources together. That is the only way we can begin to save agriculture.

• (1600)

We know the province of Saskatchewan has severe debt problems. Its payments on the debt it has incurred are horrendous and create a deficit situation that prevents the province of Saskatchewan from directing the needed resources to agriculture.

The federal government also faces a similar situation. In fact in some ways it is a more severe situation. It is time these dwindling resources available from either the federal or provincial government go to agriculture. It is time they started being used more wisely. Instead of playing political games it is about time these resources were brought together for the maximum benefit of the farming community. I hope new politics will be developed. Certainly there is a need in agriculture for new politics.

We have some objections to Bill C-95. Our agriculture critic has introduced some amendments. Unfortunately the amendments were not acceptable to the government. We also feel the Farm Credit Corporation is only part of the solution. It is not the whole solution. Other steps have to be taken by governments at the provincial and federal levels to adequately address the problems being faced.

Over all we are happy with Bill C-95. We see it as a step in the right direction and on the whole we support the bill.

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise again to make more comments on Bill C-95, an act to continue the Farm Credit Corporation and to repeal certain acts in consequence thereof. We have spent a considerable amount of time today on this bill in the House at report stage and now at third reading.

I would like to make a few closing comments on this bill. As was stated so well by some speakers before me, this is a piece of permissive legislation. I talk to people in

the riding of Prince Edward—Hastings quite frequently. I remind them of the work we do in the House in Ottawa and that many of the pieces of legislation are permissive legislation. This means that if the direction or the permission given in the legislation is allowed to happen, flows and follows the way we hope it will, some good things can come from its passage.

Perhaps we do not need to remind Canadians it is not always the case. The intention may be very good, but there must be the will of those who write the regulations and put them in place after the legislation is passed here. That is what really makes it tick. That is what really makes it work.

For the most part this is a good piece of legislation as far as the agrifood industry is concerned. The government accepted an amendment to the bill this morning stressing that the FCC was first and foremost to deal with family farms and small and medium sized businesses in rural Canada. That is more prominent in the legislation than it was just a few hours ago. For that I say thank you to the government. That was one step.

There are other good points to this bill. One is that it now makes Farm Credit Corporation money available to those who lease property but do not own farm land. The Farm Credit Corporation management tools or loans have not been available to lease holders in the past. In addition, it gives the Farm Credit Corporation the power to make or guarantee loans to farmers or a group of farmers that have an operating farm or businesses relating to their farming operations and thereby hopefully allow more value added facilities in rural Canada.

• (1605)

In some comments earlier in the House today I said, I hope clearly, that one of the things we need very badly in rural Canada right now is the facility, the opportunity and the support to take the raw product that we have been quite successful in selling in the past in Canada, and many times in exporting, be it wheat, beef, pork or fruits and vegetables, and process it further and develop it further so that Canadians can have the jobs doing that and Canadians can enjoy the benefits. Farm credit changes here will allow the board of directors to make loans to individuals or groups of individuals who want to do that and therefore create jobs in rural Canada, in the