

States are legion. If you spend and invest your money in risk enterprises for good social purposes, you do not have to pay taxes to the Government. Therefore, you can give the individual money at half rate. That is not a new idea; it is a repetition of what we have been saying for several years.

We hope that the Minister will respond to this in the Bill we are now discussing by saying that he is quite willing to take the new Minister of Finance to the mat and ask him whether or not he believes in individuals risking money to make money. We have the agencies in place. We need to get the Department of Finance off the backs of the people of Canada. This particular Bill gives us a chance to go forward, to get the agricultural industry going full out in all of its sections.

With regard to all of its sections, I must say for the record, that as a westerner I am very pleased to know that the farmers of Quebec have rallied to the support of the western farmers on the Crow rate issue. That matter, we know, will be resolved in the caucus of the Liberal Party. But once the Government becomes aware of the extent to which the farmers of Quebec, a few even in Ontario and the Maritimes, are behind the fundamental principle that when you push one section of farmers down you never, in the final analysis, help any other section, the sooner we can get on with the job of developing the potential of the whole industry in all parts of Canada. It will come as a result of the fact that all farmers are in the same union. They simply want to get going. The Farm Credit Act will be very helpful.

In conclusion, this particular amendment of a handout is accepted by everybody as not meaning very much. We will support this amendment because even handouts indicate that the Minister has his eyes in the right direction. If he had gone forward with what he seemed to be in favour of six months ago and we had money out now at 6 per cent to the farmers across this country, all sorts of things would be happening that would push our transportation people to the limit to get exports out of the country. I am not talking just about grain. I would like to go on and discuss other subjects, but I think I have said enough.

● (1640)

If the Minister is not confident that he can get this by the Minister of Finance, there are two alternatives. One is to go to the cheap money markets of Europe. Eurodollars and petrodollars are available now at 6 per cent. You could pay the premium to protect against the ups and downs of the exchange rate. This can be done through a consortium of Swiss banks.

Money can be brought into this country at 6 per cent with no risk of a change in value in the exchange rate on the dollar, either on our side or the other side. We could then get reasonably priced money into the hands of the 320,000 farmers still in business. They will get this country moving forward very fast. The wealth that they earn will go immediately into the

Farm Loans Interest Rebate Act

trucking industry, the machinery industry, the manufacturing industry and then to the mines and forests.

The farmers got this country going in 1961 and the other industries all followed. We can repeat that situation. We do not have to wait three years for an economic study of our prospects; our prospects are good and we know it.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please.

It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman)—Finance—Small business access to credit; the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—Public Works—(a) Construction of Montreal postal terminal. (b) Query respecting difficulties during construction; the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie)—Canadian National Railways—Transfer of repair work from Winnipeg to Montreal.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

FARM LOANS INTEREST REBATE ACT (NO. 2)

MEASURE TO REDUCE INTEREST RATE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Whelan that Bill C-134, respecting rates of interest on farm loans under the Farm Credit Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have this opportunity to speak this afternoon on Bill C-134. I am happy too that the result of this bill will be to reduce some interest rates on farm loans by 4 per cent over the next two-year period. As a short-term solution, I am sure it will be welcome news to farmers struggling to keep their family farm who are aided by this program.

Last February when I spoke to amendments to the Farm Credit Corporation Act, I said there was a crisis in farm financing. There still is. Even though a reduction in interest rates on the fixed interest loans provided by the Farm Credit Corporation is to be lauded, the bottom line is that it is only a band-aid solution to a much larger problem in Canadian agriculture.

In 1979 there were 82 farm bankruptcies in Canada. One year later that figure had doubled to 164. A year later it had gone to 191. This year it is far worse. So far we only know how