

*Farm Machinery*

and call on all hon. members to vote against the amendment, thus bringing this filibuster to an end.

The Canadian people long enough have had to bear the very futile discussions on the Canadian flag.

We now have the opportunity to do something for the farmers, after six years of inertia on the part of the Conservative government. Let us implement this bill promptly.

This does not mean that we must dismiss right off all the amendments that may be introduced, but of course this bill has been examined before, analysed in its different aspects, and it is also obvious that the amendment submitted by our friends opposite is simply a dilatory measure that must be defeated as soon as possible when we get the chance to vote on it.

[Text]

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, while it is not my intention to oppose the passage of this particular bill I should like to draw attention to the fact that it seems as though much of our time in parliament is being spent, and has been spent, in discussing measures to get people further and further in debt. This has been something that has been rather disturbing to me ever since I had the honour of becoming a member of this house. Time after time we have been faced with this particular type of legislation. I suppose it is based largely on the fact that this has become more or less an accepted way of life for practically all of us. I suggest something must be fundamentally wrong with the economy when it has to be based on this particular type of legislation.

Thinking especially about the field of agriculture, I believe it would be acceptable if the facilities for credit were to be guaranteed to those who were just starting up in farm operations, the young people. This would provide an opportunity for them to get established. When it carries on and becomes an accepted principle, a continuing process, then I begin to question the advisability of extending it any further.

However, we are faced with this particular problem, not only in agriculture but I suggest in every other type of industry. Extended credit facilities are being granted and are being required to meet changing times and changing situations. It has been suggested that the measure which is currently before us is more or less a recognition of the fact it has become common procedure for farmers to get together and arrange to

purchase machinery. I do not believe we are doing anything basically wrong. It has been pointed out to the house also that the number of times a farmer would use some of this machinery would not warrant his making the expenditure on his own. This is more or less a recognition of a common practice.

A question has been raised as to whether or not this legislation will assist the individual farmer to meet the competition of what can be called the company farm, or whether it will work out to the benefit of the company farm in opposition to the individual farmer and perhaps the family farm. This is something that possibly only experience will reveal. However, it should be borne in mind that there are dangers involved in this kind of legislative action.

Now, another question has been raised with regard to the liability of members of the syndicate in the event of one member dying or going bankrupt. I believe the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. Leboe) the other day referred to the fact there should possibly be some type of insurance to cover such an emergency. I believe this is a suggestion that is worthy of consideration. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that an increase in production will tend to aggravate our problems unless the necessary attention is given to the distribution and consumption of the goods produced. I do not believe this aspect has been given sufficient consideration. If a farmer is assured adequate markets at adequate prices, then I believe the time will eventually come when he can take care of these additional expenses as they come up from time to time. I believe therefore we ought to have more adequate legislation or more consideration given to the matter of consumption in order that farmers will be able to obtain their fair share of the national income and be able to make provisions for expenditures on their equipment to meet their needs as they arise.

With reference to the amendment which has been introduced, I believe we should establish a principle whereby all legislation having to do with agriculture would be referred to the agriculture committee for consideration and detailed study. But as we are dealing now with Bill C-121 we must remember that extended debate has already taken place on it. I am not saying it has been too long a debate, but practically all the different aspects of the measure have been discussed. Questions have been raised, arguments have been advanced, and no useful purpose would be served by referring it now to the committee.