

*Government Orders*

ated from the family farm structure and the rural communities as we have traditionally known them.

In general this is an acceptable bill, a useful bill. It provides more flexibility for the Farm Credit Corporation. It provides new ways of doing things for the corporation which could in fact be very useful.

Two questions have to be answered, one concerning resources and the second concerning the philosophy of the corporation. The previous speaker indicated that the estimates outline a spending regime where there will be \$600 million less available for agricultural purposes in the upcoming year. Therefore it becomes very critical where the government will allocate these scarce resources.

The government has a choice of allocating these resources to the maintenance of the family farm and the small businesses that support our rural communities, investing its money to enhance the secondary processing, the value added activities in those communities based on a local community model, or choosing to proceed with financing all sorts of agribusiness concerns, such as large corporations which could supplant and replace the family farming model.

Certainly there are enough examples in North America today of the scale and scope to which some of these corporations can grow. In my own province we have seen an example in the Kindersley area where one organization, something of a phantom organization in that it was never clearly identified who it was, proposed to buy over 100 sections of land in one community.

As this bill reads now it is entirely conceivable that the Farm Credit Corporation could get involved in lending to organizations of that scale.

As well under the free trade agreement and the upcoming NAFTA agreement there is tremendous pressure on processors to adopt economies of scale that are far beyond anything that has ever been envisaged in this country before.

It is also possible under this legislation for the Farm Credit Corporation to be involved in financing those kinds of operations which would in fact create a very fundamental change in how we process food in this country.

• (1040)

Therefore I think this is a motion that is worth adopting. In fact it should be adopted to make it very clear that the intent of this Parliament and the people of Canada is to perpetuate the family farm model, the rural development model and the small community model that we have traditionally known. It is not the intent of this Parliament and the people of Canada to finance a massive takeover of the family farm and the infrastructure that supports it by large multinational corporations.

Also, this motion gives a clear indication of the philosophy which the government intends to pursue. I believe, and my party believes, the model that includes the family farm, organizations like co-operatives, rural development corporations and rural development authorities are the appropriate models to use to build on our past successes. We have done a good job, both of producing quality food at a reasonable price and in organizing that production in such a way as to have maximum benefit for rural communities and to maintain a maximum number of family farm units.

However, it is very questionable whether this will continue into the future. It is not guaranteed that the family farm model and the rural development model will continue into the future because the pressures being brought to bear on that community are very strong indeed. It is going to be very much a matter of whether the government commits its resources to one course of action or the other that will determine how agriculture evolves in this country.

My party has proposed, with respect to the Farm Credit Corporation, that it should do a number of things differently than it has done them in the past.

First, it should provide low interest loans to farmers at fixed rates over long periods of time. Second, it should provide leasing options to individual farmers to permit the leasing of farmland over an extended period of time to guarantee tenure to farmers without needing to borrow money every generation in order to maintain a family farm unit within a particular family. Third, I believe that the Farm Credit Corporation should be proactive in developing new forms of farm tenure like community land trusts in order to create new options for beginning farmers and farmers trying to maintain their operations.