

coming to a focus and I think we should be seriously considering what we do with that.

Our goal is to—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I do regret the hon. member's time has expired.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I hate the fact that another member had to be interrupted for me to speak. I always listen carefully to the comments of the hon. member across. I know he has a very strong attachment to the agricultural community. I am always pleased to hear what he has to say, as I was to listen to the comments of the hon. member for Algoma and of our colleague from Saskatchewan as well.

We are debating today the motion to consider the advisability of protecting the family farm through stable returns and, second, for the funding for land assembly and long-term lease-purchase of land.

The funding for land assembly is not always a popular issue depending on how that is put. I am sure my colleague from Saskatchewan will agree that it has not always been a popular idea. Certainly the lease-purchase kind of initiative I think would meet the approval of many Canadians.

When the hon. member spoke a little earlier about some one million acres that the Farm Credit Corporation owns right now, shall we call it a reluctant owner of one million acres or so, I was not surprised at that figure because I had heard it many times. As the hon. member will know I have a large agricultural constituency as well. What I did not know was that 85 per cent of that land was in his own province of Saskatchewan.

There is a very sad message in that. That message I believe is the following, that for those areas of the country which depend on cash crops the cash cropping business has been so bad over recent years that many farmers have unfortunately gone out of business and have lost their farms.

We all knew that, but in other parts of the country where supply managed agriculture is a more popular form of agriculture, for a whole variety of reasons fewer farms have ended up being foreclosed or otherwise getting into the Farm Credit Corporation's hands.

### *Private Members' Business*

If that happens with the Farm Credit Corporation I am sure it is also true of other banking institutions as well. Banks have become owners of large tracts of land and of course they are reluctant owners. I am sure they would rather be doing the business of banking rather than owning farm land and they are reluctant owners there.

• (1545)

Where there are no instruments to ensure stability in the farming area, the absence of those instruments has made it such that there is a higher rate of failure in those particular sectors. That brings me to the following topic.

I want to speak briefly about supply managed agriculture in Canada. The hon. member across, a colleague from Alberta, will know of my strong attachment to supply managed agriculture. He and I participated in a series of international meetings only a few weeks ago at which we had some occasion to raise these issues with leaders of other nations. He will know that I have a strong attachment for that particular method of ensuring the stability of the agricultural sector.

I want to talk a little bit about an area that perhaps I am a little bit more familiar with than I am with other areas, the area of dairy farming. There are a large number of dairy farmers in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

There are some 33,000 dairy farms in Canada. They provide approximately 100,000 jobs in this country. Operating a dairy farm is no bed of roses. It is a very difficult industry but it is at least more stable than other areas of farming where there is no supply management or other tools to ensure stability of income.

What is interesting is that the Canadian dairy industry receives approximately \$266 million from subsidies right now. If anyone thinks that is a large amount of money, as a percentage of income it is actually very small. Something like 7 per cent of what dairy farmers get is from subsidies.

In the United States where there is no such initiative as supply management as we know it for dairy farmers, \$66 billion is spent annually on agricultural subsidies and 34 per cent of the revenue of a U.S. dairy farmer comes from governments. If anyone likes to say "why do quotas exist, why can they not just compete freely and it would be a lot cheaper", it depends on whose mathematics.