

Farm Machinery

Mr. Roxburgh: The hon. member mentioned that this measure would apply to only one section of the country. Would the hon. member delineate that section of the country?

Mr. Fane: Did I say that?

Mr. Roxburgh: Yes.

Mr. Fane: I was talking about the farmers. I said that they need help, and they need all the help they can get, but they do not want to be set aside as people who are always wanting to borrow money. They want to be on their own. They want to receive a proper price for their produce and they want that price to bear some relationship to the cost of the stuff they have to buy. The amount they receive for what they sell must bear a relationship to the cost of what they have to buy.

I can give an example, Mr. Speaker. In 1944 I bought a 16 foot selfpropelled combine. The price of that combine was approximately \$3,200 which, at that time, equalled the amount received from 3,000 bushels of No. 3 northern wheat. If one were to buy the same combine today—I suppose it is a little nicer machine, a little more streamlined and perhaps handles the work a little faster or has more gadgets, such as a cigarette lighter or a comfortable seat—it would cost roughly \$10,500 and that would be equal to the amount received from 10,000 bushels of No. 3 northern wheat. Is that right? The government of which I was a member was just as guilty of increasing loans to farmers. It is not too easy a job to tie the cost of production to the price received for the sale of a product. Why can we not work toward making it possible for farmers to get returns commensurate with the cost of production? I know the minister is going to laugh at that, but the only way any government can hope to avoid all this business of introducing special measures for loans to farmers is by following the course I suggest.

I am a farmer and I am proud to be a farmer. However you could not get me to sign one of these syndicate deals, even if you dragged me in with the biggest tractor you could find. I have had some syndicate deals, but they did not pan out. It was not my fault but was the result of the vagaries of the weather. I think perhaps I have given that thought to the minister, and I know he has received it many times from other members. I just wanted to tell him how I felt about it. I did not intend to take so much time this afternoon, but I felt that it was necessary. I am anxious to see this measure discussed in committee because then we will

have an opportunity to discuss each section and ask the minister questions.

For example, one question I will have for the minister is, will the benefits of this measure be available to the residents of Indian reserves, those who are treaty Indians? They are the people who need help most. Will it only be available to those farmers who are well off and who can get money some other way? It will not help many young farmers. Again I say, Mr. Speaker, I am talking as a western farmer and one who has been a farmer all his life. I am just telling you how I feel this measure will or will not operate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Patrick Tobin Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, over the week end I had the opportunity to discuss the legislation now before us with several farmers and farm organization leaders of my riding, and I simply wish to say that those farmers, who could be considered as small farm operators, wholeheartedly support the bill and asked me to join with them in commending the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) for his leadership in proposing this legislation to assist farmers.

The hon. member who just took his seat indicated that he spoke as a western farmer. For his information, as far as I am concerned, I may say that I speak as an eastern farmer.

Mr. Speaker, the farmers in my area are small farm operators and they asked me to congratulate the minister because they are convinced that this legislation, in enabling them to purchase farm machinery, will be of tremendous assistance in the development of their farm.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to support the remarks made by the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Mullally) and more particularly those concerning the rate of interest. I think the rate of interest should be fixed and not floating as now stipulated in the bill. And I feel there should not be a 1 per cent deduction for service charges. I think the measure would then be more beneficial to the farmers.

We will certainly have to bring some amendments to the legislation and I am asking the minister to take those suggestions into serious consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation is part and parcel of a program that was to be based on a farm policy. I think it is very important for the agriculture economy as a whole, and we should look into the possibility of establishing a national farm policy which could