

Farm Credit Act

may have gone up because of inflation and certain other problems, but the individual farmer still has only 30 to 35 acres per farm, or in some cases 100 to 150 acres per farm. I think the Minister of Agriculture begins to appreciate the problem but I do not think the government as a whole appreciates the effect of the double whammy of capital gains and succession duties on these farms.

There are many other things I could say, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to conclude by quoting something said by a very eminent North American who has his own difficulties tonight. He was in this chamber less than a month ago. It is President Nixon who said it. This statement is to be found in "Rural Canada 1970: Prospects and Problems." I was most interested that President Nixon, who is not noted for his rural philosophy or rural beginnings, should say this. Probably it was prepared for him by a speechwriter, but he had enough conviction in it to express the words. They are to be found at page 84 of the book as follows:

We will carry our concern with the quality of life in America to the farm as well as the suburb, to the village as well as the city.

I expect he was paraphrasing another eminent Anglo-Saxon, Winston Churchill.

What rural America most needs is a new kind of assistance. It needs to be dealt with, not as a separate nation, but as part of an over-all growth policy for all America. We must create a new rural environment that will not only stem the migration to urban centres but reverse it.

I would like to put in summary what I have tried to say tonight. I hope I have a chance to repeat it in more detail at other times during the life of this and other Parliaments. This House of Commons is the repository of the common denominator of Canada. People think we are a pale reflection of the personalities of Canada, but we are the repository of the common denominator of Canada because at the moment we are the representatives of Canada. Those who succeed us will demonstrate all the failures and foibles and all the perfections that we in this chamber have shown. But if there is anything to be remembered when debating any farm bill it is that we should not debate farm credit in isolation, we should not debate apples in isolation, we should not debate wheat in isolation.

• (2110)

Mr. Nystrom: Oranges?

Mr. Nowlan: We do not have oranges, as far as I know; but the fact that the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) mentioned them reflects his knowledge of the farming community of Canada—he knows nothing about it. We do not have oranges, Mr. Speaker. We have enough problems in this country with the crops we produce, let alone products we import from abroad. We bring tomatoes from Mexico, oranges from Florida and California; but we do not have enough coming from the West Indies, where we should have a viable trade. I come from eastern Canada where the natural flow is north and south and I do not understand why we cannot do something about trade in that direction.

To return to the serious matter I was discussing before I was diverted by the ranting of the elephant without horns, if anything serious is to be taken from what I have said

[Mr. Nowlan.]

tonight—and I hope there will—then in this chamber we must stop debating policies of isolation. We must decide, if there is a national farm policy, whether it is integrated with the provincial policies in farming or in finance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak on Bill C-5, an act to amend the Farm Credit Act. First of all, I should like to compliment the chairman and staff of the Farm Credit Corporation. In my opinion they have done an excellent job across Canada over the years, and I know they will continue to do the job to the best of their ability by looking after our farmers under the legislation passed by Parliament.

Mr. Alexander: What about a little praise for the Minister of Agriculture?

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) and I heard the interjection of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander). I appreciate, of course, that neither of those hon. members has ever had anything to do with the Farm Credit Corporation and put through any of those—

An hon. Member: High class mortgage loans.

Mr. Alexander: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: He is objecting to cheap feed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) seeks the floor on a point of order.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I just want to set the record straight. My good friend has indicated that I have had nothing to do with the Farm Credit Corporation. I want him to know that during the Diefenbaker years I was one who used to process a lot of mortgages—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: How much were you paid?

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised at what has happened. I knew it would happen as soon as I stood up. The last speech was rather dull and I knew—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: I am somewhat amused, however, that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley did not say there had not been a substantial number of loans go through his law firm in the past. You know, Mr. Speaker, we cannot have this conflict of interest. I know that my good friend from Hamilton West stood up, and rightfully so, and said that at no time did he have anything to do with mortgage loans going through the Farm Credit Corporation, but the other hon. member has not said that.

An hon. Member: He was living in British Columbia.