

S.O. 21

[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

CALL FOR REVIEW OF POLICIES

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, in 1982 when the previous Government changed the Farm Credit Corporation from a lending institution to assist young people get started in agriculture to a banking institution, now ranking fourteenth in Canada, little thought was given to the consequences. Their advisers must have thought interest rates would never come down. Today interest rates are too high, especially in view of world commodity prices.

High penalties are being charged when farmers want to pay off their mortgages early, and in my constituency there is over \$500,000 in this category. Chartered banks are forgiving penalties. It would be unparliamentary to repeat what farmers think of the 6 per cent commodity based loan. I call upon the Government to review the Farm Credit Corporation's policies and bring them up to modern times.

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● (1405)

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): With respect to the official languages, Mr. Speaker, the champions of the linguistic cause in this country have been disappointed to note the backward step taken by the Government in its Speech from the Throne.

In answer to a question I asked in the House April 15 last, the Prime Minister promised, and I quote: "—in the near future, the Government will—make—announcements with respect to—an action program to promote official languages". Yet nothing concrete has been done for two years. The 1986 Speech from the Throne is indeed a backward step, given the firm commitment made by the Government in 1984.

On October 19, 1985, at the "The Minorities: A time for Solutions" conference, the then Secretary of State, Mr. Bouchard, said: "The time for analysis is over; now is the time for solutions." We must therefore take action, Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to waver.

It has become imperative, first to give primacy to this legislation over all other federal statutes; second, to give teeth to this legislation, particularly Section 2, and make it clearly binding rather than merely declaratory; third, integrate the language of work into the Official Languages Act; and finally, give more power to the Commissioner of Official Languages so he can do his job.

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

SERVICE CUTS IN PRINCE COUNTY, P.E.I.

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, residents of my riding are being shortchanged by Canada Post. They were given little notice of postal changes which will have a negative impact on their postal service. Cut-backs will mean letters mailed on a rural route will sit for 24 hours before pick-up. The mail will arrive much later in the day and the local newspaper will reach some residents a full day after it is published. That is shabby treatment.

Does the Government not understand how important a prompt pick-up and delivery service is to rural residents and business operators? How many city residents would put up with such reduced postal services? Prince County is a depressed area. There are few jobs to be had. Why is the Government cutting federal services in an area which is already disadvantaged?

Prince County residents are not accepting these cuts quietly. They have organized. They have voiced their opposition. As a result, Canada Post has delayed the cut-backs for a month. But a delay is not enough. I demand that the Government reverse its decision and maintain full postal services for Prince County residents.

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AGRICULTURE

PLEA FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, it is Saskatchewan's misfortune that in this hour of crisis, brought on in part by falling oil and grain prices, we have Conservative Governments in Ottawa and Regina. The ineptness and mismanagement of these two Governments are forcing Saskatchewan into bankruptcy. Take, for example, the issue of deficiency payments. It has been some time since the federal Government become aware that the U.S. Farm Bill would depress the international price of grain and that a deficiency payment would be essential if thousands of family farms are to be saved.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has not announced a deficiency payment. Instead, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) told reporters that the Government would do anything to win the Saskatchewan election for Grant Devine. To play politics with the livelihood of western Canadian farmers clearly demonstrates the contempt this Government, and that of Premier Devine, have for thousands of farm families. If a deficiency payment is going to be paid, get it into the hands of farmers now. Stop playing politics with the future of western Canada.