

land. He never took that into consideration. He suggested that land values had increased over 20 years. Shouldn't the value of land increase? Mr. Speaker, that was the only table in that book that he could have used to accurately illustrate conditions today. The hon. member was quite right when he said that all members of parliament should do what they can to aid agriculture, to help the farmers, and not just paint a black picture. I am attempting to do just that. I think that the amendment moved by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) is a direct aid.

The hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean also suggested that the average age of farmers today is over 53 years. I think I read somewhere that it is 58 years. It is high, Mr. Speaker. We must encourage more young farmers to enter the business. The hon. member went to a meeting and, in his own words, he said he was surprised to find that three or four young people at that meeting were in farming. I contend that this bill should be designed to encourage young people to go into farming, and the amendment moved by the hon. member for Mackenzie would do that.

The young farmer has a great deal to contribute. He has youth, energy, and the willingness to accept new ideas and changes that can help agriculture. We should make an all-out effort to encourage young farmers to stay on the land. The amendment proposes that where a young farmer under a certain age meets certain performance standards with regard to the repayment of a loan, a certain percentage of the interest would be forgiven. I think this would encourage young people to get back to the land. Under the terms of the bill a young farmer can borrow up to \$100,000, but in the first year he would have to pay \$8,000 interest. The amendment suggests that in certain cases payment of the interest could be deferred.

For a long time the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) was a Social Creditor. Since becoming a minister, he has forgotten about the evils of high interest rates. That is one of the things you have to forget. I point out that, under his jurisdiction, for two years the Farm Credit Corporation charged an interest rate of 8 per cent, or above that. The minister used to oppose high interest rates when he was a Social Creditor.

Mr. McKinley: But anything for power.

Mr. Horner: Yes, anything for power, as my hon. friend from Huron suggests. It is amazing what men will do for power. They forget all the concepts and ideas that they believed in for years.

This bill will do two things. It will allow the Farm Credit Corporation to make larger loans to individuals, in fact

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loans up to \$100,000, and it will allow it to make loans to non-farmers and to farmers whose principal occupation is not farming. The minister shakes his head to indicate disagreement. I do not know who else is going to carry out this small farms program. Certainly, that is one of the criteria in the small farms program. I read that in the fancy document which was put out by the minister on March 8, 1971. Mr. Speaker, a full year has gone by since then, and he has not sold this idea to any province. But he says that even if no province accepts it, he is going to proceed with it.

I wonder what is wrong with this idea. Apparently he has permission to implement it. His estimates are passed. He has already spent money under this program. We are told that it will cost \$150 million in five years.

Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Seven years.

Mr. Horner: In seven years, then. The minister cannot blame the hon. member for Crowfoot for holding up this legislation.

Mr. Olson: I never tried to.

Mr. Horner: The program has been established for over a year, and no province has accepted it. What is wrong with it? I see that it is nearly six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, so perhaps on another occasion when this legislation is before us he will be able to explain why he has not been able to sell it to the provinces.

There are many things that could be changed in the Farm Credit Corporation management that would alleviate a lot of the difficulties affecting farmers across Canada. The hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean suggests that there are too many production units in agriculture, and he says that is why there has not been any success. He agrees with the Minister of Agriculture. The minister makes a bold statement that small farmers have got to go. I have a newspaper clipping here somewhere.

Mr. Olson: I never said that.

Mr. Horner: This is the *Calgary Herald* of Saturday, May 8, 1971. It says, "Olson seeks to reduce number of small farms."

Mr. Olson: I never wrote the headline.

Mr. Horner: I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.