

THE SENATE

Wednesday, July 5, 1972

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Report of the Science Council of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1972, pursuant to section 19 of the Science Council of Canada Act, chapter S-5, R.S.C., 1970.

Summary of Statistics on the Canada Manpower Training Program for the year 1970-71.

Copies of Notes exchanged between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom constituting an Agreement concerning a training scheme for armed forces of the United Kingdom in Canada, under date of August 20, 1971. In force August 20, 1971.

CANADA MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAM STATISTICS

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, on Friday morning last when Senator Norrie was speaking on third reading of Bill C-195, to amend the Adult Occupational Training Act, she indicated the desirability of tabling some further statistics on the Canada Manpower Training Program. I have just tabled those statistics for her.

CANADA LABOUR CODE

BILL TO AMEND—REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science, reported that the committee had considered Bill C-183, to amend the Canada Labour Code, and had directed that the bill be reported without amendment.

He said: Honourable senators, as I anticipated yesterday evening, we dealt with this bill in committee in the course of a few hours' discussion. It is an honour to present the committee's report.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Martin: At the next sitting.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Not before, for sure.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

FARM CREDIT ACT

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of honourable Senator Michaud, for

the second reading of Bill C-5, to amend the Farm Credit Act.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, first of all I should like to thank honourable Senator Michaud for his introduction of this bill. After listening to his remarks on the farm situation in Kent County in New Brunswick I think it appropriate that Senator Michaud introduced this measure. Perhaps, Senator Michaud, you have not achieved all the results you would have liked to by your inquiry, but at least you have made the government aware of the farming situation in Kent County.

One aspect of your introduction that I appreciated was the fact you did not claim that the present bill to amend the Farm Credit Act would provide a solution for the problems you outlined. Both of us know that the present bill is not going to create a line-up at the Farm Credit Corporation offices across Canada. In fact, I doubt if it will create even a ripple of interest in the farming community of Canada. I say that, honourable senators, because I have looked into a few of the statistics concerning the farming industry in Canada.

If I may have your indulgence for a few moments before I actually consider the proposed amendments to the act, I should like to point out to the Senate, and to the people of Canada, generally, that most of us in this country are completely unaware of the rather sad state of affairs that exists in the agricultural industry.

• (1410)

When you drive past a painted farmhouse with a nice fence around it, it is easy to think that the farmer there is making money and that all is well within the confines of that farm. But in this connection I should like to quote a few figures from the agricultural division of Statistics Canada. Naturally I shall start with my own province where in 1970 the income in thousands of dollars was \$13,822. This was reduced to \$6,602 in 1971, representing a drop in farm income of over 50 per cent. And this is despite grandiose plans and the development plan by which farm income is supposed to double between 1969 and 1976. In this instance in one year they managed to bring about a decrease in farm income of over 50 per cent. Therefore, they have their work cut out for them in the next few years.

In Nova Scotia, a neighbouring province, the farm income dropped, again in thousands of dollars, from \$23,000 to \$17,000. That again is a very serious drop.

In New Brunswick where the people are very industrious and hard-working, in 1970 farm income was \$17,118 and in 1971 it was \$10,570.

The Province of Quebec fared a little better inasmuch as they only dropped from approximately \$195,000 to \$181,000.

Ontario, which we normally consider to be the most progressive and profitable province, dropped from \$402,000 to \$324,000. As I have said, these figures are all in thousands of dollars.