

in that direction. I think this government has met the difficulty which the hon. member sees in asking his question by the fact that we not only have an excellent Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but we also have helping him an excellent minister responsible for international trade, the Minister of State for Trade, and another excellent minister, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. In this way this government explains why it has been doing so well in increasing its foreign trade balances.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thomson:** Madam Speaker, I think it is clear that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has so many functions to carry out, and that the trade function will be of such vital importance to Canada in the future, that creating a separate portfolio for this function warrants the consideration of the Prime Minister.

#### RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN CANADIAN EMBASSIES

**Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South):** Madam Speaker, does the Prime Minister believe that it is wise to proceed with the integration of the trade commissioner service under the Department of External Affairs when trade is of such national importance?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the logic of the question is difficult to follow. In one instance the hon. member wants us to separate departments, and in another he argues about the Department of External Affairs.

**Mr. Kempling:** What?

● (1200)

**Mr. Trudeau:** The argument about External Affairs, as I understood it, was that we have put foreign trade officers abroad under the ambassador. The object in both cases is the same, Madam Speaker. It is to ensure integration in our policies, that we should tend in industry to produce things we can sell and that in our external relations we have one person speaking for Canada, that is the Canadian ambassador, under whose authority come the various departments which operate abroad. That is true for foreign trade, and it is also true for immigration and health services.

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#### AGRICULTURE

##### FUNDING FOR FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Since the minister has castigated the banks for charging high interest rates and not assisting farmers, does he have any plans to increase the amount of money available to the Farm Credit Corporation,

#### Oral Questions

say in the amount of \$150 million asked for by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, we have a lot of plans for the Farm Credit Corporation. The hon. member will have to wait and see.

#### PLIGHT OF FARMERS AFFECTED BY BANKRUPTCY OF MACHINERY DEALER

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Madam Speaker, since the minister has a lot of plans but no money for the Farm Credit Corporation, does he have any plans to change the legislation which would make it possible for farmers to avoid having to go to banks and financial institutions in such situations as has developed in the North Battleford area where farmers have had to pay twice for machinery as a result of a bankruptcy?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member mentioned a very sad state of affairs where farmers paid a dealer who did not submit the money to a finance company, so now they are being asked to pay again. There should be some law which protects the innocent purchaser of any product when this kind of situation occurs. It is hard to understand that this can happen in our society today.

However, when the hon. member speaks about the Farm Credit Corporation I would say to him that we do have plans which we will be submitting to the House, I hope shortly, which will allow us probably to increase our lending capacity substantially. We have plans also which will enable young farmers in particular starting out, to take out beneficial types of loans, perhaps at no interest rate for the first three or four years, and with no capital payments, so they can establish themselves.

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#### PENITENTIARIES

##### CUTBACK IN SECURITY STAFF AT MATSQUI, B.C., INSTITUTION

**Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Can the minister advise the House of the reasons for what has been termed the shocking cutback in security staff at the Matsqui institution in Abbotsford, British Columbia?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, there is a proposal to reduce the number of positions on the security staff of that institution, but I do not think it is shocking. The background of it is that the correctional service in Canada is developing national standards to try to assess the proper level of security across the system. We have learned from experience in other institutions, and these national standards indicate it, that some institutions have more security than others in the same category, and that some have less. We are trying, in a rational way, to balance the system.