

Protection of Privacy Bill

\$5,000, may be paid by the Crown; they might even be paid by the officer at fault.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt that as a result of the introduction of this bill, the provinces will follow suit either by modifying it or proposing another piece of legislation also aimed at protecting those who fall victims to illegal acts carried out by provincial officials in right of the Crown and providing legal means for victims to seek damages or some other kind of compensation.

Mr. Speaker, considering the provisions of the bill such as the notice of intention given to the party concerned to the effect that an intercepted private communication will be adduced in evidence and taking into account other restrictions provided in the legislation, I think that the guarantees are sufficient for the protection of individual rights.

As regards the public, it will be necessary, in view of the reports which the solicitor general and the provincial attorneys general will have to prepare, to determine to what extent these methods are used for the detection of criminals and other such aims.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the bill provides for the establishment of a mechanism capable of protecting the average citizen who really has nothing to fear from such a bill, as well as society which needs to be protected now more than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding my remarks, I am pleased to support the bill and I hope that it will be passed by the House.

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the remarks of previous speakers and I want to thank them for their constructive suggestions.

We have gone through this stage of the procedure with a speed which clearly shows, Mr. Speaker, that all members are anxious to see this bill go through the next stage, and then become part of our statutes.

This measure is part of the long series of reforms undertaken by the present government in order to ensure a greater respect of individual freedom and privacy.

One can easily understand the concerns voiced by the four members of the New Democratic Party, and I am sure that their distinguished representative on the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs will be able to obtain from the minister the answers to their objections, with a view to clarifying the situation for the benefit of his colleagues, of all the other members of this House, and the general public, in order to give them a better understanding of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I wanted to say to close this debate. I want to thank once more the House for its co-operation.

[English]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[Mr. Forest.]

FARM CREDIT ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING LOANS AND POWERS AND CAPITAL OF CORPORATION**

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-5, to amend the Farm Credit Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

• (2140)

He said: Mr. Speaker, Bill C-5 contains many important amendments to the Farm Credit Act. The general objective of the amendments is to enhance the ability of the Farm Credit Corporation to meet what I think are demonstrated, long-term credit needs for the development of viable farm businesses, and to provide the corporation with the powers necessary to carry out such other duties or functions as may be assigned to it in relation to the administration of those programs.

One of the most important to us now is, of course, the small farms development program. This program has been authorized by the House under the vote that has been presented to hon. members and passed. It seems to us, however, that it would be useful to have a provision in the statutory authority whereby the Farm Credit Corporation, because of the number of offices and the experienced field personnel, has authority to perform these functions.

Mr. Speaker, there are two main areas of these amendments. The first is the updating, bringing into 1972 and the years ahead, of the requirements of certain limitations that were put in, quite appropriately, at the time. I refer to such things as the maximum amount of loans which has not been changed since 1964, I believe, and certainly since then there has been an increase in land value and the size of farm units. We intend to change that provision.

There are other factors within the bill about which I wish to speak in some detail. One is the restrictions that were placed on farmers with respect to the amounts or the method and procedures they were required to use in relation to a loan taken under the FCC and one taken under the Farm Improvement Loans Act. Hon. members will know that experience has shown that even in certain areas where this seemed to be necessary, it is not required; so that restriction or limitation is being repealed. The other main area of these amendments is to provide for new concepts and functions that the FCC will be administering in the agricultural sector of Canada.

With those few introductory remarks I should like to get down—

An hon. Member: Explain!

Mr. Olson: I intend to explain some of these in detail and even to explain what I have said in more detail. Hon. members will realize that the powers of the corporation are being changed. The present powers of the corporation are those required to fulfil its objectives and purposes, which are to make, to administer and supervise farm loans. That is about as far as the powers granted to the corporation in the past would go. The corporation has a staff experienced in farm appraisals and farm land transactions deployed throughout the agricultural areas of