

*Government Orders*

in rural Canada are not going to get better, they are only going to get worse.

That is the concern right across rural Canada. Regardless of how good a bill we fashion or put in place, the question is: Will the government provide the funding, the finances to make this legislation, Bill C-95, work? Without additional funding it will not be any better than the existing Farm Credit Corporation even though the mechanics and the facilities will be in place to improve it.

There is some concern in some groups. Some of the prairie wheat pool groups have expressed their concern that if an additional amount of money is going to be provided through this legislation for further processing and activities beyond the farm gate, will that mean there will be less funding for farm loans for the primary producers? Those questions when put to the parliamentary secretary or the officials of the Farm Credit Corporation really get no response. We have no idea whether or not there will actually be any additional funding for those further processing plants beyond the farm gate.

This amendment further defines that we are interested in funding and supporting the family farm and that we are primarily concerned with small and medium sized businesses. We are not concerned with bankrolling or even having the massive kind of vertical integration that has happened in the United States.

Last night I had an opportunity to again review the CBC program concerning the poultry industry in the United States. In the United States there are big companies like the Tyson company, which produces 25 per cent of all the poultry meat in the United States. We clearly do not want to see that kind of activity enhanced in this country, whether it is coming from the U.S. or it is being designed here.

We want to see efficient medium sized industries that live in the community and do not treat primary producers and farmers as serfs living on their land, but are independent farmers contributing to their community, producing quality, producing efficiently, and making not only a contribution to the world food supply but within their community.

The kind of vertical integration that we have seen in the U.S. and some other countries is clearly not the model that we have had in this country. If we have had any genius in this country it has been the system of supply management and the system of orderly market-

ing, such as the Canadian Wheat Board, in which the farmer, the primary producer, who is the most important link in the whole food production chain, is given power. He is given power through the Canadian Wheat Board to amalgamate with the several hundred thousand prairie agriculture producers to be able to market on a world scale with one of the best marketing organizations in the world. Likewise in our supply management, producers are able to bargain and have power in the marketplace to deal with the large dairy, poultry or whatever sector it is. This amendment is really designed to ensure that these funds are made available for the family farm, for small and medium sized farm businesses relating to primary production.

• (1035)

I hope the government will accept this motion. We had a similar one in its committee and the government voted it down in, its usual inimitable style of voting down every amendment that comes forward from the opposition. I hope it will accept this one.

**Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate, especially in the discussion of Motion No. 2 which would amend clause 4 to designate that the purpose of the bill is to provide money for farming operations, including family farms and those businesses in rural Canada including small or medium sized businesses that are related to farming.

I note that both the hon. member from Moose Jaw and myself have very similar motions standing in our names. Thus it is quite obvious that we support the gist of Motion No. 2.

I might also note that the bill as it stands now merely makes reference to farming operations and those businesses in rural Canada that are related to farming. The critical difference between what is in the bill as proposed by the government and this motion is that we are talking about family farms and small and medium sized businesses.

It is a very critical distinction, given the stage of development of agriculture today. We are at a watershed in the agriculture community, in the rural community, with respect to whether the production of food will continue to be based on a rural model, on a family farm model or whether the production of food will gravitate toward production by large corporations which are alien-