

*Farm Credit Act**(Translation):*

**Mr. Roy:** Mr. Chairman, this being my maiden speech in the house, I should like to congratulate you for having been chosen to preside over our proceedings. Indeed, you have filled that office in a most commendable way until now.

Since the beginning of the session we have heard quite a number of speeches. In my opinion, the members of the old political parties deserve some praise. They have some brains, there is no doubt about that, because they have succeeded in convincing the people, and the farmers in particular, that the present Farm Credit Act is advantageous to them even though it takes up all their savings.

The old political parties have reached the point where they are lending money to our farmers to enable them to pay the interest on the loans they have made to them.

Mr. Chairman, I am not against providing money to the farmers to improve their farms and to purchase the necessary equipment which will make their task easier.

I think it is the duty of this house to do all that is humanly possible to help them.

The farmer has always been the most neglected one and we seem to forget too often that the farmer gives our community more hours of work every day than anybody else. On the other hand, the farmer is always paid less than anyone else for his services.

I can understand that our farmers are willing to get into debts even more deeply, because they knew that in the near future they will have a Social Credit government which will see to it that their farm incomes allow them to pay off their debts and the interest thereon quite easily.

Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to represent one of the finest ridings of the south shore. I am proud of it. That riding is made up in part of farmers and workers who are the backbone of the community. They have been through quite hard times.

I have been a farmer myself till the age of 33, and I am proud of it.

As it is one o'clock, I propose the adjournment of the debate.

**The Chairman:** It being one o'clock, I must now leave the chair.

*(Text):*

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Barnett.]

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

**The Chairman:** Shall the resolution carry? Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Hamilton** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-71, to amend the Farm Credit Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT**

## AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONTROL AND REGULATION OF CERTAIN DRUGS

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare)** moved the second reading of Bill No. C-3, to amend the Food and Drugs Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a somewhat extended statement in moving the second reading of Bill C-3, an act to amend the Food and Drugs Act. I feel justified in doing so because of the circumstances which have led the government to put forward these proposals. I am referring, of course, to our experience with the drug thalidomide, an experience which hon. members will appreciate has been shared in greater or lesser degree by countries throughout the western world.

As a preface to these remarks I think it might be helpful to say something about the complexities involved in the introduction and marketing of new drugs and to outline our views concerning the responsibility of government in this process.

I hardly need remind the house of the remarkable advances made possible in medical science by the discovery and development of new drugs. With the advent of the so-called miracle drugs our health professions have been able literally to lift the horizons of medical knowledge and to bring about cures which only a few years ago would have been regarded as nothing short of miraculous. Examples are so numerous that I am sure all of us could testify to this fact from our own experience. Indeed, developments have reached the point where we take for granted that some pill or tablet will be available to relieve almost any ailment.

This whole process of drug advance is one of the greatest and most beneficial elements of modern civilization. But like any other aspect of human progress it is not without risk. Experience has shown that every drug, however innocuous it may appear or be represented, does possess some potential for danger to some people. Even the lowly headache remedy can be very dangerous and cause death in certain circumstances. In this sense then there is no such thing as a completely safe drug for everyone under all conditions