

*Excise Tax Act*

We now have 23 per cent of our farmers, instead of 19 per cent, in serious financial difficulty and we see no action.

The Farm Credit Corporation was reduced from some \$494 million of farm assistance, long-term loan funding, to only \$90 million this year. On July 10 of this year, the Minister promised to bring in legislation on an urgent basis this fall with amendments to the Bankruptcy Act to provide a pre-foreclosure, pre-bankruptcy arbitration procedure for young farmers facing foreclosure. He started to walk away from this promise in September. Last week he was at the point where he was saying he would seriously consider it. This kind of lack of action is the reason the Minister of Agriculture is going to have to face many hundreds of young farmers in serious financial difficulty this Saturday when he goes home to his riding.

This Government has billions and billions of dollars. It has a \$1 billion for a write-off for the Reichmann brothers in Toronto. It has \$1 billion for Petro-Canada to buy 1,800 gasoline stations and refineries. But the Government has no money for farmers. This Bill exacerbates their situation because it imposes an additional two cents a litre, or nine cents a gallon, on farm fuel costs. It is a deliberate back-tracking and contravention of the very promises which the Government made. The Government imposes this tax at a time when the harvest is getting into full swing in western Canada. It is a travesty. It is unfair and unjust. On top of that the Government is going to impose an additional one cent sales tax on all farm supplies, including gasoline, which will probably cost a little over one cent a gallon. It will be imposing it on all farm supplies and goods.

The Government promised agri-bonds, long-term low-interest rate funding for farmers. It reneged on its promise. The Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs made a strong recommendation that we have an agri-bond program to help young farmers who are facing serious financial difficulty, but there was no action about that whatsoever in the Budget. The Government promised to revise Section 31. There was no action there. It promised to expand agricultural research and development. Yet the Government is cutting back \$50 million on the estimates of the Department of Agriculture. That is reputed to be coming out of the research budget. The Government is reneging on its promise of an agricultural research institution in Quebec. The Toxicology Centre at the University of Guelph, which would have been very valuable to agriculture, was cut by the former Minister of the Environment. She did not have a clue about anything in the environment but you would think she would have at least learned something about that institution before cancelling it. This is just a totally disastrous history of lack of action or wrong action taken by this Government.

● (1610)

If we look at the rest of the Tory campaign manifesto we see that they promised to allocate the necessary funding to assist producers in refinancing their loans at current prevailing rates. We saw no action, but the Ontario Liberal Government,

within a matter of a month, was able to announce a \$50 million program of assistance. The Tories promised in the election campaign to impose an effective fast-track policy so that responsive action could be taken to protect producers by imposing import restrictions where necessary. What do we have? The Government imposed a 5.9 million pound limit on EEC beef imports to Canada but when the pressure was on, it was increased to 23.5 million pounds. The Tories said they would work to increase exports and stimulate production to meet export demand. Yet here we have a 5.3-cents a pound countervailing duty on all our hogs going into the U.S.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order, please.

**Mrs. Claudy Maily (Gatineau):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is a pity that both the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) and the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) wasted their 10 minutes in exaggeration and puffery rather than addressing the problems of the day. I would particularly like to take up the suggestion of the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior that the Government of Canada should imitate the Liberal Government of Ontario. I would like to remind him that that Government brought in tax increases in its Budget. I would also like to ask him if he is suggesting that we should be getting the extra revenue we need to carry on with established programs and reduction of our debt, as well as trying to build up a cushion—

**Mr. Foster:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I know the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Maily) does not know what she is talking about, but I do not see the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) in the House. If she is addressing her comments to me, I wish she would call me the Hon. Member for Algoma.

**Mrs. Maily:** Mr. Speaker, the same thing applies. The Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) is just as confused as his colleague from Cochrane-Superior; it was his performance in Question Period which left his name in my mind. As for the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson), she had an interesting and creative approach to blotting out a terrible record which had the Hon. Member's Party thrown out of office in September, 1984. She spoke of prudent policies which brought us the economic renewal we are now just beginning to enjoy. That sent me to some of the background documents provided by the Department of Finance on the results of these prudent policies. For example, over the past three years our national debt grew at a rate of 25 per cent a year. That is almost three times the rate of growth of the GNP. Under the current fiscal plan debt growth has slowed to 17.7 per cent this year and will slow down further to 14.6 per cent in 1986-87. I fail to see where the prudent policies of the previous Government have brought us the economic renewal we are now beginning to see. Moreover, Statistics Canada, and DRIE surveys, indicate strong growth in investment for 1985, considerably larger than first forecast. Business fixed investment was up 17 per cent on an annual basis in the second quarter. I fail to see what that has to do with any policies of the previous Liberal Govern-