

*Farm Credit Act*

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will bear with me, I simply wish to say in the very short time remaining that it is not easy to say who is bilingual. There must be some objective measurement, both written and oral, which means that the civil service commission has to adopt certain procedures which are beyond any question of not being objective. This is what has not been done in this measure.

I want to say one other thing, Mr. Speaker. I know I am stretching my time, but under this legislation the number of French speaking Canadians throughout the country has to be determined. How is this to be done? Are you going to take the last census? Will you accept mother tongue according to the census as the basis of the proportion? If this is to be so, then in the last census of June, 1961, 28.1 per cent of all those in Canada replied that their mother tongue was French.

**Mr. Ricard:** Don't ask questions; give answers.

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, I think at this stage I have to face the fact that it is now six o'clock.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows:

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), income tax, hospitalization plan payments by employers treated as income; the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett), labour relations, British Columbia, freedom of workers to join union of choice; the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), discussions respecting future correctional policy.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**FARM CREDIT ACT**

**AMENDMENTS INCREASING AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, MAXIMUM LOAN LIMITS, ETC.**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hays for the second reading

of Bill No. C-100, to amend the Farm Credit Act.

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, I have just a few remarks to make on this bill before it is considered clause by clause in committee. At the outset, I should like to say that I welcome the amendments which have been introduced, especially the provision whereby loans under part II are to be increased to \$40,000 and under part III to \$55,000. There is only one reservation that I have and that is, since the interest rate is not spelled out in the bill it could mean that the interest rates charged could vary from 6 to 7 or even 8 per cent. I do not believe this is a desirable thing to have. The interest rate is set at 5 per cent in the act now. However, when the bill comes before the committee for clause by clause discussion I shall be urging the minister to make provision for a definite interest rate in these regulations.

Another matter which I should like to bring to the attention of the minister is that the definition of a farm is being broadened sufficiently to include beekeeping. I come from a province where beekeeping is a secondary industry for many farmers. In Saskatchewan we have the Saskatchewan honey co-operative which produces the so-called Sasco honey. This provision will be welcomed by the beekeepers, because they will be classified as farmers and will be eligible for loans, the same as the grain farmer or the livestock raiser.

This beekeeping industry is a very important one. In the three western provinces we have the interprovincial honey sales co-operative. It may be of interest to note that the exports of this honey amount to something like three million pounds a year, most of which goes to Britain. Since this is such a valuable source of income to the farmers, even though to some of them it may be a secondary industry, I think provision should be made in this act whereby, although a farm may not be classified strictly as a beekeeping farm and even though it is secondary to some other branch of farming such as livestock, these beekeepers should be able to obtain loans.

As I said before, this beekeeping industry is a very important one and brings in quite a bit of income. As time goes on, I am pretty sure that this interprovincial honey co-operative will expand. At the present time it is more or less the sole supplier of the market in Britain. The United Kingdom has long been