

Farm Credit Act

the kinds of vegetables which appear on the table but include also soybeans, sugar beets and corn. I believe we can grow all the corn Canada needs, though we were not helped, I must say, by the action of the Minister of Finance the other day in taking the surtax off corn just as our own crop is being harvested. That will not help our corn producers who find they are placed in a position of competing with the United States farmers' surplus crop.

Administration of the United States farm administration loan provisions contains a number of good points, and we in our county associations recommended that several should be included in the practices of the Canadian Farm Credit Corporation. We hoped that more of them would have been included in the amendments to this act. In particular we had hoped that an advisory council would be set up—a local advisory council composed of people familiar with the problems of their own areas. I am not suggesting that those who now are responsible for the administration of these loans are not efficient. I know a number of them personally and they are doing a good job in carrying out the provisions of the act in our area.

I should also like to say that we in Canada have the prospect of developing our vegetable industry along lines which would make it possible to sell an important part of our products abroad. There is a market for these vegetables in Europe. Just this week I met the manager of a processing plant who had been in Europe selling his produce there, and he said the operation had a tremendous future.

We had a storm on June 18. I do not mean the elections; it was a hailstorm and wind-storm which destroyed a lot of crops in the area of which I am speaking. I asked the government if it would agree to take the surplus from the canning interests because what the farmers planted in beans would not be harvested until October. Officials of the civil service told me at that time there was no legislation which made provisions for this to be done. I think there should be. However, action along these lines was taken by the canners. They took these beans, and this is what the canning company to which I have referred is selling in Germany at the present time.

Some hon. members who come from western Canada might think I have no knowledge of the agricultural problems in that region. However, I may say I have worked in western Canada as a farm hand and know the problems which confront the western farmer. I agree with a good deal of the legislation which has been passed to assist western farmers.

[Mr. Whelan.]

I was interested to hear the Minister of Agriculture tell western farmers that their ship had come in. Well, I live along the Detroit river which is part of the St. Lawrence waterway, and I see ships from just about every nation in the world go by as they ply that waterway. But we in southwestern Ontario are still waiting for our ship to come in.

I wonder whether either the Minister of Agriculture or the representatives of the New Democratic party would condone the practice of part time farming. I wonder, particularly, whether members of the N.D.P. would condone, say, the actions of part time tradesmen going out and moonlighting in competition with workers affiliated with the trades and labour council. I have several brothers who belong to labour unions and they feel strongly that they should not have to enter upon any other occupation in order to earn a decent living in this country, and I do not think farmers should have to take a job in a factory or anywhere else simply because our agricultural economy is not stable enough to ensure them a decent living off their farms. I think our agricultural system has possibilities for development to the point at which farmers do not have to leave their farms to become, in many cases, a surplus on the labour market. Everything which this parliament can do to keep agriculture healthy should be done, if only because of the large percentage of our labour force employed either directly or indirectly in agriculture. Our agricultural products are of high quality, and the world is in need of these products. It is up to us to sell them on the world market. Our marketing boards and processing industry are working now to expand the sale of our products abroad. Loans under this act to those who have already made a heavy investment in order to help them and others to make a decent living are one way of helping to reach this object, and I hope those who will be responsible for the administration of this measure as amended will make sure that the legislation is implemented for the benefit of agriculture throughout Canada.

(*Translation*):

Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a pleasure for me to rise in this house to expound the Social Credit views on the resolution now before us.

Mr. Chairman, may I congratulate you for your appointment, as well as Mr. Speaker for being raised to such a significant post, which calls for so much patience. I am happy to commend him for the objectivity with which he guides our discussions.