

*Farm Machinery Syndicates Credit Act*

to this house for Indian affairs, enter into the agreements described in the bill.

It is not as if this were something new. In the course of another debate today I had occasion to put on the record a recommendation that was made by a joint committee seven and a half years ago. The members of that committee, having sat for a year and a half and most carefully observed the evidence given by the 99 witnesses, I believe it was, who appeared, saw fit to make recommendations, including the provision that the Indian people should be placed in precisely the same position, in so far as land holdings would permit, as other people.

One of the difficulties in the attempts of the Indian people to forge for themselves an opportunity to have the same way of life as other people was that they faced the obstacle of not being able to obtain credit. On Indian reserves, as is well known, there is no fee simple ownership; there is a certificate of occupation only. Of course, they are not able to pledge land. After hearing evidence and studying the matter, the committee specifically recommended that provision be made for legislative changes in order to remove the barriers which now inhibit the Indian people in their attempts to receive credit so that they may farm and engage in agricultural activities along with non-Indian people. That should have been done within two years. Legislative proposals were introduced, but there was an election and the government changed hands. The matter has been marking time ever since.

● (9:30 p.m.)

We are hopefully awaiting changes in the Indian Act which will remove this and many other impediments. While I welcome any legislation which will permit the Indian people to receive some measure of credit, I am sorry to see it in this form. The Indian people have been waiting for a bill of rights. This has been the subject of discussion for some months.

I hope the legislation of the type embraced in the four corners of this amendment and which appears in the amendments to the Farm Credit Act will put the Indian people in precisely the same position as other people.

I deplore the paternalistic attitude found in this amendment. It states that only when the minister responsible for the Indian people under the provisions of the Indian Act permits will this credit be allowed. There must

[Mr. Baldwin.]

be agreements or arrangements between the corporation and the minister.

I find some of the details are repugnant. My next objection is that it requires authorization by the governor in council. During the course of this session, members of this party repeatedly intimated to government ministers that we are most dissatisfied with the extent to which this government is seeking more power and encroaching on the rights of individuals. I had occasion to say something about that this afternoon.

This phenomena probably accounts to some extent for the acts of student violence and protest seen all over this country. As governments seek more power and make individuals conform to the viewpoints of government expressed through orders in council, there is a rising tide of resentment. I call attention to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is only when the governor in council sees fit to enact regulations for the kind of agreements contemplated that any benefits, meagre as they are, flow to the Indian people. This is simply not good enough.

I hope before this debate concludes the minister will indicate that the government intends to introduce the legislation which has been requested. We do not want to see programs and policies which place Indian people under inhibitions of having to depend on what the minister will work out by way of agreement with the corporation, making them wait until the governor in council sees fit to work out agreements. This should become a thing of the past. It is this colonialism and paternalism which marred the record of this country in its dealings with the Indian people.

I urge the minister to move rapidly when the occasion arises. Obviously, the government will not bring down this legislation before the Easter recess, but we on this side will insist that it be introduced before the end of this session. When that happens, the government will see the measure introduced into the Farm Credit Corporation Act. The companion measure in the Farm Credit Corporation Act will be replaced by something acceptable to the Indian people which will give them the opportunity of being in the same position as a non-Indian. They will have available to them credit facilities to engage in the agricultural industry. They will be able to take their place with the other farmers of Canada.

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I think the amendment to the motion makes a start at attempting to do