

TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Question No. 1,285—**Mr. Hnatyshyn:**

1. (a) What is the total expenditure by way of government grants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1975 (b) what are the specific grant programmes and the amounts of each making up such expenditure?

2. (a) What is the anticipated total expenditure by way of government grants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976 (b) what are the specific grant programmes and the amounts of each making up such expenditure?

Return tabled.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Question No. 1,372—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Will Opportunities for Youth Programme funds for this year be distributed on the basis of Canada Manpower Management areas and, if so, what are all the reasons?

2. What are the names or designations of all Canada Manpower Management areas (a) what electoral districts or portions of electoral districts are included in each of these Management areas (b) what are the total funds allocated for 1975 for each Management area?

3. (a) What are all the factors involved in deciding how the allocation of Opportunities for Youth funds for each Management area will be divided amongst communities in that area (b) did any political considerations enter into this distribution and what are the names of any Cabinet Ministers who have responsibility for advising on such distribution within Management areas?

Return tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FARM CREDIT ACT

MEASURE TO INCREASE CAPITAL OF CORPORATION AND
PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS FOR LOANS

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-34, to amend the Farm Credit Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary) moved:

That Bill C-34, an act to amend the Farm Credit Act, be amended by deleting the words "thirty-five" in lines 42 and 48 at page 2, lines 3 and 12 at page 3, line 38 at page 7 and line 22 at page 8, and substituting therefor the word "forty".

● (1510)

He said: Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to this bill I should like to say at the outset that I believe these amendments are good, particularly the one which will increase to \$150,000 the amount a young farmer can borrow, and allowing him to declare that he will go into farming but remain in another profession or occupation up to five years. The proposal embodied in this amendment was in our policy paper during the last election campaign. It has been taken directly from that policy paper and, as I say, I think it is a good amendment.

My amendment to the bill will raise the eligible age of a young farmer, for the purpose of taking advantage of the Farm Credit Act, from 35 to 40 years of age. I think this

Farm Credit Act

will be an improvement because it is a well known fact that life begins at 40. Apparently, age 35 was chosen because the officials of the department felt that these 30-year loans should be paid back at age 65. There are many good reasons for raising the eligibility age to 40. We are trying to get young people back into farming. Sons and daughters of farmers very often have to leave the farm because the farming operation cannot support more than one family. These people, therefore, go into other fields or professions. By the time their parents are ready to retire, giving them the opportunity to go back into farming on the parents' land, they are over 35 years of age. On most occasions these people have to borrow under the Farm Credit Act.

Very often the young people who want to go back into farming have worked for a number of years in another career, and before they can retire with a pension they must put in a certain amount of time. It is not a bad idea for people who retire from another career to go back into farming. Many of them have experience in associated agricultural professions, which does not hurt them one little bit in their farming endeavours.

It has been stated that the purpose of this legislation is not to assist people who have had professional careers as horticulturalists or school teachers, for example. I do not believe that when we are passing legislation we should state who, or who cannot, take advantage of the legislation in that way. Certainly, I do not think you could find a better farmer than the individual who has been educated and has practised as a horticulturalist or a professional in some other agricultural field. I, personally, know a young man who had a teaching degree and a degree in agriculture. Following a career as a horticulturalist, he went back to farming his father's farm. He had a difficult time starting up, as he had to quit his job in order to qualify for farm credit, but he went ahead and is today an excellent farmer.

We know that over the years farmers have lived poor and died rich. I do not think any young man going into farming today can get very excited about that prospect. These people do not want to live the same type of life as their parents or the individuals from whom they have taken over the farm: they want to enjoy life, just as everyone else does.

The trend in the past few years has been for people to leave the farm. Statistics indicate that a few years ago 30 per cent of the children of farmers stayed on the land, but the number has now decreased to 10 per cent. If we are to attract these young people to farming, we cannot do it by just making more money available: we must make it possible for them to enjoy the standard of living that is enjoyed by people living in urban areas. There is nothing wrong with a young person going into another profession to earn money he intends to use in farming in later years, because in many cases the amount an individual can borrow under the Farm Credit Act is not sufficient and he will need the equity that is built up while in another profession.

Many occupations have pension plans and similar benefits, but it takes a number of years before one can qualify for such benefits. I do not think people who follow this course should be left out of this legislation, and for this reason, as well as others, I think the age should be raised