

*Government Orders**[English]*

Although the wording of Motion No. 5, standing in the name of the hon. member for Algoma, and Motion No. 7, standing in the name of the hon. member for Prince Albert—Churchill River, is different the intent is the same, and that is to ensure that the membership of the board shall at all times include a majority of farmers. Therefore, I shall not select Motion No. 7. Motion No. 5 will be debated and voted on separately.

[Translation]

Motions Nos. 8, 9 and 13, standing in the name of the Minister of Agriculture, are motions of a technical nature that affect one version only. They will therefore be grouped for debate, and the vote on Motion No. 8 will apply to Motions Nos. 9 and 13.

[English]

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma) moved:

Motion No. 2

That Bill C-95 be amended in Clause 4 by striking out lines 13 and 14 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"farming operations, including family farms, and to those businesses in rural Canada, including small or medium-sized businesses, that are related to farming."

• (1025)

He said: Mr. Speaker, the amendment which I am putting today, Motion No. 2, really identifies that loans made and that this bill really applies to family farms and medium and small-sized businesses in rural areas relating to farming. The original clause did not specify that. It simply talked about farming and businesses engaged in farming in rural areas.

One of the most attractive parts of Bill C-95, the Farm Credit Corporation Act amendments, deals with the further processing of agriculture commodities in this country and extends the authority of the Farm Credit Corporation to make loans relating to the food processing industry and further processing of agriculture commodities.

This has clearly been one of the greatest failures of this government. Since 1989 when the free trade deal was signed, we have seen a massive depopulation of the food processing industries. Over a hundred plants across the country have closed and some 34,000 jobs have been

lost. I guess it is better late than never, and so we are glad to see the government bringing forward these amendments to the Farm Credit Corporation Act but this is clearly a major failure. This is an area where a new government will have to take immediate steps to salvage the further processing industry in this country, because if we do not have further processing we do not have the markets.

This amendment is designed to indicate that loans made are for family farms and for small and medium-sized businesses.

The section in the act now reads:

The purpose of the corporation is to enhance rural Canada by providing specialized and personalized financial services to farming operations and to those businesses in rural Canada that are related to farming.

This amendment just adds family farms and small and medium-sized businesses because that is the sector where we think there is the most opportunity not only for further processing of agriculture commodities but also the creation of jobs in rural Canada.

We have seen some 13,000 farmers leave rural Canada in the last four or five years. With them leaving, the infrastructure of rural Canada is likewise diminished. This amendment is designed to strengthen that aspect, the idea of family farm operations and small and medium sized businesses.

Right across the country today there is grave concern as to whether this bill will make any difference. The bill is generally a good bill. It provides for a much more flexible Farm Credit Corporation. It removes limits on expenditures and allows for flexible arrangements with regard to agreements.

• (1030)

The basic question that Canadian farmers are asking is: Will it make any difference? Will there be any more money? If we look at the estimates that were presented a couple of weeks ago we can see that over \$600 million has been reduced in the estimates. Regardless of how good a structure the FCC is, if the government's political will is not there to support rural Canada and support rural industry then it will not make any difference.

We see estimates that the net farm income across the country will be reduced by some \$1 billion in this coming year and the estimates are being chopped by over \$600 million in this year. That leads one to believe that things