

*Bankruptcy Act*

diverse range of opinion has been offered, often reflecting common concerns about the level of interest rates and the need to help beginning farmers. The results of this consultation process are being compiled and will be ready in the near future.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that this points out just some of the actions our Government has taken to try to help farmers who have found themselves in great financial difficulty, and of course, we will continue to do so.

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk-Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak on the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster). I realize I do not have a great deal of time to express my views. It is ironic that the Hon. Member for Algoma introduces a motion of this magnitude today. Does he really think that he and his Party are going to be the saviours of the farmers.

I recall in 1981 as my colleague, across the way stated, when interest rates were 22 per cent. Where was his Government then? Where were the Liberals? Were they trying to help me? I was caught in that bind with 22 per cent rates at the bank. What kind of a policy did that Government come out with to help me, my neighbours, and the neighbours across western Canada? I will tell you where the Liberals were, Mr. Speaker. At that time they had a Prime Minister who came west and said: "Why should I sell your wheat?" Do you recall those days, Sir? The Wheat Board, by the way, was run by the federal Government. That attitude prevailed during all the hard times in the 1970s and 1980s experienced by the farmers of western Canada. Today the Member for Algoma stands up and says "We better start helping farmers". I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and the Hon. Member for Algoma that our Party and this Government is determined to do everything we can to help farmers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Holtmann:** We will not on some *ad hoc* basis throw something at the farmers by saying "I will help you a little bit today. We will chuck this little bit of legislation in here to help your group". That is not our way. We will determine the needs and the importance of their problems and how we can affect them in the long term.

• (1830)

When they introduced a Bill of a similar nature, Bill C-17, that mighty Government of the past could do nothing with it to help farmers. The Hon. Member referred to that Bill and how great it was. When there was an amendment by the Opposition Party, the Conservative Party at the time, they never let it come to the floor. They debated it for days and days, but we must remember that it really added some substance. If we follow it all the way through, it finally died on the Order Paper when a leadership convention was called. That was how they treated farmers. I cannot help but believe that its actions today will reflect on its importance as an Opposition Party. They had an opportunity and could do nothing with it.

In the House of Commons today—and they were supported by some hon. colleagues in the New Democratic Party—they were very upset with the Government of Canada supporting a bank foreclosure. Although the figures are not out as yet, 20 per cent of the investors in that bank could very easily be farmers who retired after working all their lives for that money.

They feel that it is wrong for the Government to support that action. Shame on such an attitude! They are not really for farmers, those farmers who perhaps worked for 40 years and invested all their hard-earned money in that bank. When we say that we are prepared to support a bank which has gone down, we are supporting farmers. Today they did not consider that at all. Why did some important legislation fail during their administration? It failed because they had no will or determination to do something for agricultural people.

I come from a farm background. I have farmed. I have gone through the tough times. Yes, we have to be very concerned whenever problems develop in agriculture. Today we do have many problems. We have problems in western Canada, some involving more than just one year of drought. The Province of Manitoba was looking forward to a tremendous crop. As of today it has now had 3.5 weeks of rain. It will now be very difficult to get off a crop which is so important to western Canada. It is not only important to the Province of Manitoba; it is also important to those provinces which need feed and fodder. Indeed it will not be in the best of shape after all this rain. However, Manitobans are prepared to help out wherever they can and to give supplies to needy farmers in southern Saskatchewan—stocks of fodder, straw and so on.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 46 deemed to have been moved.

### APARTHEID—SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. (B) REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Hon. Warran Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, on April 15, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) whether, considering the escalation of violence in South Africa, he was then ready to implement economic sanctions and a mandatory program with respect to Canadians doing business in South Africa. I also asked whether he would consult with the Opposition