Government Orders

What I am asking for is that the government try to appreciate the dilemma in which some farmers will find themselves and the effect that this will have on the industry.

ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

• (1710)

[English]

And being returned:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-6, An Act to amend the Radio Act and certain other Acts in consequence thereof—Chapter No. 17.

Bill C-17, An Act to amend the Customs Tariff—Chapter No. 18. Bill C-19, An Act to amend the Canadian Exploration and Development Incentive Program Act—Chapter No. 19.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROPS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-36, an Act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Foster (p.4275).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Continuing debate with the Hon. Member for Leeds—Grenville.

Mr. Jordan: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the government appreciates the dilemma that the cutting out of this program, this ability to borrow money interest free, will put on farmers who are already very disillusioned about a couple of recent decisions.

They were given assurance through the free trade debate that ice cream, yogurt, and ice cream novelties as they are called were on the import control list so they were protected. That was a fallacy. The countervail on pork will come up again, I understand, on October 11. There is some sort of provision to have it appealed. We will see how they make out with that.

We must become more competitive internationally is the part that I take exception to when it comes to dealing with basic food supply. I can tell the members opposite that if they go toe to toe with the Americans in the dairy industry, they are going to lose. There is absolutely no question about that. I think it is significant that they appreciate that dilemma.

You do not need to go very far, about 10 or 12 hours drive from here, to see herds of cows which get milked three times a day. This was unheard of until recently. The cow is really a machine. They push feed through it and milk it. It is at the scale that Canadian farmers will not be able to compete with because things are largely out of their control. Good luck is a factor. It is great if you can get it consistently, but you cannot count on luck in the agricultural industry.

The only solution that I see for Canadian farmers is to get government assistance in developing government strategies to counteract that. That is the category in which I place this program. This is an excellent government strategy to counteract all the difficulties of trying to survive in the agricultural industry under our climatic conditions. Why then would you dispense with it? It is not, as I mentioned before, that expensive to maintain, and if it is going to keep some semblance of order in the agricultural community, why would you dispose of it?

We can support farmers by offering these programs which give them financial assistance until such time as they can market their products in an orderly fashion on an annual basis and hopefully be able to survive. Otherwise I see the multinationals moving in and buying the crops. They will buy the grain when it is harvested. Not because they need that grain or corn at that particular time, that is not the point. They are not buying it because there is a need for it and because they have an immediate market for it. They are buying it because they are opportunists and they are taking advantage of the farmer