

Supply

that we do not think part-time farmers are making a contribution to the agricultural industry in particular areas? For instance, around Prince Albert there are many farmers who also work part-time at the pulp mill or in the bush. They are really productive people. To some extent they are attempting to build up their farms, but they are making a very good combined living. If they were unable to farm or not allowed to make that kind of living, they would probably move away, particularly people who work in the bush in the winter. They would not be able to make a living on the farm and the bush work would not be enough. We need to look at the whole structure and allow enough flexibility in it so that if decisions are made, they are not made to the detriment of taxpayers.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan)—Energy (a) Venture Oilfield Project (b) Negotiation of offshore development agreement with Province of Newfoundland; the Hon. Member for Hull-Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle)—Social Security—La Régie des rentes du Québec—Canada Pension Plan—Injustice to public servants in National Capital region; the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Epp)—Multiculturalism (a) Implementation of committee recommendations (b) Abella Commission report—Date of presentation.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):

That this House condemns the Government for its inadequate response to the growing financial crisis in the agriculture sector and for its failure to provide sufficient support and services to farmers who face severe economic difficulties in all regions of the country.

Mr. Greenaway: Mr. Speaker, could I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately the period provided for questions and comments is now over. We shall resume debate with the Hon. Member for Perth (Mr. Brightwell).

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to take part in this debate. The importance of maintaining a strong and dynamic agricultural industry has always been understood by the Progressive Conservative Party. We have only been in office a short time, and already we can point to a proud record of achievement in support of farmers across the country.

● (1610)

If we look at the history of support programs in this country, we find that the majority of federal agricultural legislation and agricultural institutions were established by Conservative Governments. The Canadian Wheat Board, the Farm Credit Corporation, crop insurance, the Agricultural Stabilization Act, ARDA, and the Prairie Grain Stabilization Act are all good examples of our concern for Canadian agriculture and the welfare of Canadian farmers. At the provincial level, the same holds true. Conservative Governments brought in most of the marketing boards which have done so much toward stabilizing farm income and bringing order to the agricultural market-place.

I want to make it clear, however, that these institutions and the legislation are only support mechanisms. They were never intended to interfere with farmers' personal freedom or their responsibility for their own success.

In my close association with farmers and in business life I am well aware of the harsh realities of agricultural life. Farmers know, when they enter the business, that there is no guarantee of security. They have to be careful. They have to be frugal. They have to work hard and live within their means because of the narrow margins, the traditionally poor returns on capital, and the risks of both natural hazards and the uncertain market-place. The market-place is no less threatening to farmers than flood, drought or frost. Each farm family must take primary responsibility for coping as best it can with these hazards. Farmers understand there is no escape from the harsh realities, no excuse for bad management. In short, farmers know that they must carry their weight, take their own risks and live with the consequences.

Every independent businessman must maintain that sort of attitude towards his or her enterprise. The federal Government recognizes, however, that there are some aspects of the agriculture industry that are unique. There is the vulnerability to the weather and to international political and economic forces, for example, all of which require Governments to adopt special support programs for farmers.

These support programs are not designed to guarantee every farmer a living, but rather to ensure there is an economic environment in which farmers may prosper. They also ensure that Canadian consumers have a continuing supply of high-quality food at reasonable prices. In addition, government support programs enhance the agriculture industry's contribu-