

*Western Grain Stabilization Act*

vouchers and bonus shares given to customers, et cetera, et cetera. This was all done by the Thatcher Government to move British Telecom into the private sector.

That type of thing will occur with Air Canada as well. In the end, all that will occur is that there will not be any money coming in to the Government of Canada. There will be a share issue which will allow a certain amount of money to Air Canada to buy new planes and nothing more. We will not see any effect on the deficit here in Canada. All we will have is a bunch of Conservative Cabinet Ministers and back-benchers with idiotic smiles on their faces, the Cheshire cats of politics in Canada, as they smile and watch Air Canada disappear into the great beyond, into the private sector.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I regret that very much. That is why at the very least I ask Hon. Members on all sides to support this amendment which will ensure that we do not subsidize by taking over the debt in the privatization of Air Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five Members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to Standing 114(11), a recorded division on the motion stands deferred.

Pursuant to Standing Order 13(5), the recorded divisions stand deferred until 6 p.m., Monday, July 11.

Orders of the day.

**WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (for the Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds))** moved that Bill C-132, an Act to amend the Western Grain Stabilization Act, be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in the interests of brevity and the importance of getting this Bill to committee, I will keep my remarks this afternoon to a bare minimum.

The Western Grain Stabilization Act has played a very significant role in supporting farm income in western Canada since 1976. It has been amended on two or three occasions since that time, the most important time being when the provisions for an interim payment on a regular basis were implemented. It has worked exceedingly well for those who are in the program.

By way of example, a farmer who has been participating since 1976 at maximum potential has paid some \$8,925 by way of levies and has received approximately \$65,000 by way of returns. The Government is concerned about two or three matters. First, we are concerned about the fact that there is a significant number of farmers who are not in the program. They may not be in the program for a variety of reasons. Perhaps, in part, they do not believe in the program. They may be opposed philosophically. Perhaps they believe, as some did, that it will never pay. There were no payments for an extended period of time.

We are left today with the fact that this is a very important part of the safety net in western Canada for the western Canadian farm community but some 13 per cent to 15 per cent of the farm population is not participating. Thus we are introducing a series of amendments to the Act which we hope will encourage a significant percentage of that group to join.

We are troubled by the deficit in the program. It exists at a level of about some \$2.2 billion. There are provisions in the program as announced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) last December at the time of the Outlook Conference, for a debt write-down of \$750 million.

We are recommending that this Bill go to the Standing Committee on Agriculture. We are assuming that there will be a number of farm organizations that would want to appear before the committee, including a group that calls itself the Committee of Non-participants. Anyone who lives in western Canada is aware of the existence of this group. It is a group of individuals who believe for a variety of reasons that the proposed amendments are not satisfactory to them. We assume that the standing committee would want to hear this group of non-participants over the next few weeks.

The proposed amendments are designed to encourage people to join by the abolition of certain penalties which have been in