

Mingan and Natasquan and their appreciation of the fact that the Canadian Government has purchased the Mingan Archipelago. "*Tous les bouleaux de la rivière Mingan s'en rappellent*", a line from one of Gilles Vigneault's songs. The Mingan Archipelago will now become one of the great attractions of this vast country of ours, and I believe that all Canadians are pleased about the fact that we shall now have a very wonderful park in Eastern Canada. Madam Speaker, I would like to add that people on the North Shore were very disappointed in the attitude of the Quebec Minister of Tourism, who said that the Canadian Government had paid an excessively high price for the Mingan Islands. To the people on the North Shore, the Islands are priceless, and perhaps I may say that by acting the way it did, the Canadian Government has saved Quebecers \$2 million, because the \$5 million are now spread over all ten provinces, which means \$500,000 per province, a perfect example of co-operative federalism. Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I received many telegrams supporting this transaction from the people around the Mingan River and the Mingan area, and I think that I can therefore safely say that everyone is pleased, and we hope that Quebec will co-operate, for the sake of the people on Quebec's North Shore and for the sake of all Canadians and the whole world, since the UN has recognized the international importance of the Mingan Archipelago.

* * *

[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO AGRICULTURE ESTIMATES

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Madam Speaker, the agri-food industry and its supply and services industries comprise approximately 40 per cent of Canada's economy. While only 5 per cent of our population is engaged in primary food production, the agri-food system employs 18 per cent of the Canadian labour force. It has often been said that, as goes agriculture, so goes the nation.

One of our major problems today is the continued loss of farms and farmers. Poor economic conditions have worsened the situation as evidenced by the 60 per cent increase in farm bankruptcies. Canada cannot afford this continued and heavy loss of a productive industry.

The socialist hordes to my left pretend to support agriculture when in reality, as every independent farmer must now realize, they represent state control. The farmers of Canada will know just how concerned the New Democratic Party is for their welfare when they realize that yesterday NDP Members did not support the Main Estimates which targeted over \$200 million for agri-food development.

Oral Questions

FOOD AND DRUGS

PRICE OF DRUGS—CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) is reported to be preparing amendments to the compulsory licensing provisions for drug patents, to assist pharmaceutical manufacturers in their goal of gouging the Canadian consumer. He is aided in this enterprise by the Hon. Martin O'Connell who is now working as an adviser to the Minister and who was, until recently, employed by the drug companies which are seeking these changes.

The alliance of big business and the Government against Canadian consumers and small drug manufacturers should be instructive to farmers and gardeners who have been expecting this kind of action to be taken under Bill C-32 which would grant similar patent rights to corporate plant breeders. Seed buyers will see the way that patents are used to reinforce monopoly positions over certain drugs. They can also see the way that Government bows to pressures by some of the same companies which are also very active in the seed business around the world.

• (1415)

Prices charged by licensed companies competing with the giants fell by 67 per cent on the 16 best selling drugs in the four years following the loosening up of the patent provisions in 1969. Now it appears that the Government is going to reverse that good policy which allow automatic licensing. Consumers of drugs in Canada should know what the effect of this will be on drug prices. I urge the Government to reconsider this disastrous policy, and to maintain automatic licensing which allows the manufacture of drugs in Canada at prices people can afford.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORPORATION'S AFFAIRS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board in his role as the reporting Minister of Canadaair and any parent of Canadaair. Would the Minister clear the air on the certainty that the Government accepts responsibility through the various Ministers of the Crown for the debacle that has occurred in Canadaair, bearing in mind that every month for years past the reporting Minister received internal financial statements with respect to Canadaair? Is he accepting responsibility for this debacle?