

*Canagrex*

Energy, Mines and Resources wanted PetroCan just for a window on the industry. A fine window it has developed into. It is one of the five largest oil companies in Canada. It was bought with the people's money.

Now we have a Bill that will allow the Government to price agriculture products. All you have to do to control anything is just set the selling price on it. If the Minister did not have that in mind, why would he not take away the buy and sell provision? Our concerns would then be alleviated. However, he will not drop that part of it. Therefore we have to assume that he is setting a mechanism in place that will allow this to happen.

I now quote some excerpts from a book:

Federalism must be welcomed as a valuable tool which permits dynamic Parties to plant socialist governments in certain Provinces from which the seed of radicalism can slowly spread—

—it is folly to endorse strategies that are devised to swing the whole country at the same time and in the same way into the path of socialism—

In terms of political tactics, the only real question democratic socialists must answer is: "Just how much reform can the majority of the people be brought to desire at the present time?"—

Perhaps even Parties with different names may reach the same ideology in different Provinces—

I should like to see socialists feeling free to espouse whatever political trends or to use whatever constitutional tools happen to fit each particular problem at each particular time.

Those quotes are taken from the book "Federalism and the French Canadian", written by the present Prime Minister, pages 125, 127, 128 and 130. If that does not tell us something, I do not know what will.

Some of the major agriculture industries in Canada do not want Canagrex, yet the Government and the Minister of Agriculture are flying in the face of those industries. I will read the names of some of them: Alberta Beekeepers Association; Alberta Canada All Breeds Association; Alberta Canola Growers Association; Alberta Cattle Commission; Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board; British Columbia Cattle-men's Association; British Columbia Pork Producers Association; Canadian Cattlemen's Association; Canadian Export Association; Canadian Meat Council; Canadian Seed Trade Association; Consumers' Association of Canada; Flax Growers Western Canada; Manitoba Canola Growers Association; Manitoba Cattle Producers' Association; Ontario Bean Dealers Association; Palliser Wheat Growers Association; Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association; Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission; Saskatchewan Stockgrowers' Association; Shippers and Exporters Association; Western Barley Growers' Association; Western Stockgrowers' Association. In spite of all this opposition, the Government is going to push through legislation that these people do not want. What in the world is Parliament coming to?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Dionne) said that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture started this some years ago. That is not so. It was the Manitoba Farm Bureau that started it about seven years ago. That body has now come around and is opposing it. Why does the Government misrepresent the position taken by these

people? It is absolutely wrong that we are pushing the free enterprise agriculture community into this socialist program. That is all it is. It will take control in spite of the denials made by the Minister of Agriculture.

• (1130)

As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Gurbin), just mentioned, the Canadian agricultural producer produces ten times more than does his counterpart in Russia. Why, then, do we want to fall into a socialist trap? It is unbecoming, unrealistic and unwarranted.

I want to read from a press release, Mr. Speaker, issued by all of the people who are in opposition to Canagrex so that it will be on the record:

The Government has again announced its intention to proceed in the House of Commons with the passage of Bill C-85, that would establish an Agricultural Export Crown Corporation—CANAGREX.

This, despite widespread opposition from the agricultural, trade and consumers sectors across Canada, including a majority of farm producers that could be affected by CANAGREX. The above mentioned associations have consistently opposed CANAGREX, as proposed in Bill C-85, and will today reestablish the facts about Canada's agricultural export trade and its potential. We are currently enjoying an all time high in agricultural export activity and, through existing export structures, are breaking new ground almost daily. We welcome the interest of the Government in seeing these exports expanded, but, we believe that the Government's initiative to create CANAGREX is redundant, most inappropriate and misdirected.

How much more straightforward can the opposition be than that, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture do not understand English.

REDUNDANT because we believe that the Government has presently at its disposal all the means it needs to support export growth in agriculture, without having to resort to the creation of yet another Crown Corporation. With only minor enlargement of their mandate, the Export Development Corporation, the Canadian Commercial Corporation and the Foreign Trade Service could quite adequately fulfill financial, institutional and marketing support functions—at a much lower expense to the taxpayer.

The Government forgets about the taxpayer. All the Government thinks about is how it can pick another buck out of the taxpayer's pocket. I must tell Members opposite that the supply of those bucks is coming to an end.

INAPPROPRIATE because through CANAGREX the Government wishes to establish itself as a direct trader, with the powers to buy and sell on international markets. This move would be directly opposite to the Government's earlier decision not to proceed with a National Trading Corporation.

There was certainly a lot of publicity about that. It is a good thing that it was dropped.

It will bring unfair competition to bear on existing export structures with potentially serious negative consequences on our overall agricultural trade performance. It is unnecessary as the agricultural support organizations in other countries, which CANAGREX is meant to correspond to, do not engage in direct exporting.

MISDIRECTED in that the basic issue in Canada's agricultural exports growth is totally ignored in the CANAGREX proposal.

Of course, people who are interested in agriculture know how the present Minister of Agriculture has suppressed agricultural production by his marketing board concept whenever he had the opportunity.