

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Whelan:** Canagrex was not thought up by the Liberal Party. Canagrex was thought up by farming people in this nation, and it is still backed by farming people in this nation. As the Hon. Member says, it is not backed by all of them, not by 100 per cent, but the vast majority still want Canagrex and they are still asking that we get on with it. As late as yesterday evening, I am told, the President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was saying, "Where are we at? Let's get on with passing Canagrex."

The Hon. Member refers to the length of debate. He knows this was discussed in committee. He knows that you operate this House and the Committees as democratic forums, Madam Speaker. We have followed that principle. He also knows that if this were the Mother of Parliaments there would be an agreement for so many days of debate and to deal with amendments, et cetera.

Hon. Members opposite keep using the word "closure". We are asking for time allocation, Madam Speaker. Since I was 21 I have been elected to some kind of public office and I know that this is generally how business is administered, by some kind of ladies' or gentlemen's agreement.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hargrave:** Madam Speaker, I would have to add to the Minister and to the Government House Leader that it is a little difficult, if not impossible, to collaborate on bad legislation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## OPPOSITION TO CANAGREX

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** I have a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. The Minister will be aware that some 23 agricultural commodity organizations have recently reaffirmed their total opposition to Canagrex. Most of them were unable to appear before the Committee. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers requested permission to appear but were denied the opportunity. I want to ask the Minister if this closure motion is his only response to this large and important segment of Canadian agriculture. Surely this is not the Canadian democratic way.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Surely, Madam Speaker, it is the parliamentary way. We are operating within the rules and regulations of a democratic Parliament. The rules we have in this Parliament lag far behind the rules in most democratic Parliaments in the world, where this would be an automatic thing. For instance, Premier Davis had to do the same thing in Ontario just the other day. I do not hear Hon. Members opposite saying that his action was undemocratic. He used closure, and he used the guillotine.

We are asking for time allocation. The Hon. Member refers to Committee meetings. As he attended most of them he knows what took place. Democracy took place in the Committee. Members made the decisions on the amendments that were presented. What they are saying now is that they do not want democracy to work. That is what they are saying.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## INQUIRY WHY CANADA OPPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB STATE IN PALESTINE

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Last week, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution with a sweeping majority, in favour of the establishment of an Arab State in Palestine, while Canada, with the United States, Costa Rica and Israel, voted against the resolution.

Could the Right Hon. Prime Minister inform the House why Canada thought it preferable to vote against this resolution?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member had given me notice of his question, I could have checked the text of the resolution we voted against or on which we abstained, or else I could have asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs who is at this moment meeting with members of the Brandt Commission. I cannot give a specific answer for the simple reason that I have not read the resolution in question. On the face of it, it seems to me that the Hon. Member's question raises a number of other questions regarding an Arab State in Palestine. Is this not merely a petition on a matter of principle? What is Palestine? Does it only mean the left bank of Transjordan? Does it include the Gaza strip? I do not know what the resolution contained, so I am really not able to answer the question.

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[English]

## RAILWAYS

## WINNIPEG ACCIDENT—QUERY RESPECTING RELOCATION OF CPR YARDS

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport concerning the mishap, the explosion and fire, in the CPR yards in Winnipeg last evening. Since Mississauga and McGregor, and since there was a spill of methanol in the same yard two years ago, and in