

Canagrex

whether his Party was right on when it established the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Taylor: Now you're going to change the subject.

Mr. Flis: Was his Party right on when it established the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. Malone: Right on.

Mr. Flis: Was his Party right on when it established the Canadian Wheat Board?

Mr. Lalonde: Yes.

Mr. McKnight: There is no comparison.

Mr. Flis: What is the difference between the Bill before us today, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Wheat Board?

Mr. Taylor: They didn't have the power to take over the farms.

Mr. Flis: The Hon. Member for Simcoe South referred to Poland and to the U.S.S.R. I can tell the Hon. Member that I know of the seven million Ukrainians who starved to death under the Soviet system in 1932-33, not even having a loaf of bread to eat. I can tell the Opposition about what is happening in Poland and the reasons for the Solidarity movement. I can tell the Hon. Member that the state farms, the kolhozi, in the Soviet Union, do not work or the PGR in Poland do not work.

● (1720)

The purpose of this Bill is to go the opposite route. Its purpose is to make sure that our farmers do produce more not only to feed Canadians but to feed people in other parts of this planet. Our country is blessed with the type of soil and weather conditions that enable us to feed not only Canadians but people around the world who are not as fortunate as us. This Bill will do nothing more than to motivate producers to produce more and to export.

It seems that anything the Liberals introduce in this House that will make the Government look good, the Official Opposition tears it down with statements such as state control, communist plot or that the Liberals are nationalizing everything in this country.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Are they not?

Mr. Flis: They are afraid that the Government will look good when this piece of legislation gets through.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Flis: That is what they are afraid of. I say that this Bill is another move by the Liberal Government to assist the Canadian entrepreneur to seek new markets around the world. Canagrex will be the stimulus to more successful free enterprise in the agri-food sector of our economy.

Mr. Taylor: Is that why you want to confiscate the farms?

Mr. Flis: If the Opposition feels that this Bill is moving toward state control, again I would ask them why their Government formed Crown corporations. Members opposite listed the various Crown corporations they are against. I ask again why they formed the CBC, CNR and CWB? Have the 12 Tories running for leadership, some of whom have dropped off, come out with a platform to ban the Canadian Wheat Board or the CBC? No, those Crown corporations are all right.

Let us look at the Canadian Wheat Board, a Crown corporation established by the Tories.

Mr. Taylor: It does not have the power to take over the farms.

Mr. Flis: Why did the Progressive Conservative Government give the Canadian Wheat Board the power to buy and sell when it was created?

Mr. Taylor: It does not have the power to take over the farms.

Mr. Flis: We are talking about the amendments and the dispute around the philosophy of buying and selling in this Bill. Let me ask again why the Progressive Conservative Government, in creating the Canadian Wheat Board, gave it powers to buy and sell while their amendments seek to withdraw the same powers from Canagrex?

Mr. Taylor: It has no power to confiscate the farms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary has the floor.

Mr. Flis: I think someone mentioned already that taking those powers from Canagrex would be like letting a steer out into a herd of young cattle. Then the Tories would scratch their heads and ask why the stock is not increasing. Perhaps they understand that kind of language.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Dionne) tells me that all of the Opposition amendments were debated extensively in committee. They were extensively debated, and eight of the Opposition amendments add up to one thing—

Mr. Taylor: You just read that page.

Mr. Flis: Those amendments say to strip Canagrex of its power to engage in exports when so requested. Without that ability Canagrex will not be seen as an active, potent partner of the Canadian agricultural industry and would not address the requests of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture when they identified a need for "an agricultural trading agency to assist export expansion."

As the Minister has already stated in the Chamber, a number of provincial Crown corporations such as those in Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, already have power to buy and sell and/or purchase property. Those powers have not been abused or misused by the Provinces.