

Canagrex

appointed to compose the panel of Chairmen of Legislative Committees, together with the Deputy Speaker and Chairmen of Committees of the Whole, the Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole and the Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole, shall be as follows: Lise Bourgault, Howard Crosby, J. Robert Howie, Fred King, Arnold Malone, Allan McKinnon, John Parry, Gordon Taylor and Marcel R. Tremblay.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED MISLEADING OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Earlier in Question Period when the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) answered my question, he misled the House in that he compared the Gersberg Inquiry to the Forget Royal Commission. Gersberg was a public servant working in the Department of Employment and Immigration and conducted an internal inquiry at the request of the Minister. The Forget Commission was appointed under the Inquiries Act and it is not and was not normal that it should be financed through the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: The Minister has misled the House in answering my question. He is a public servant.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has really raised a question of debate. I do not think it is a question of privilege. I listened carefully and the Hon. Member was very careful not to say there had been any intentional misleading of the House.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CANAGREX DISSOLUTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wise that Bill C-2, an Act to dissolve Canagrex and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: When the House rose at 1 p.m., the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) had the floor.

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, at one o'clock earlier today I was pretty well along in my remarks on Bill C-2, which is an Act to wind down the Crown corporation known as Canagrex. I had indicated we were of the firm opinion that the corporation would not have delivered in the manner in which it was originally intended and that the

Government had taken some very significant steps in the interim to provide the extra support and assistance to our agricultural industry in Canada, primarily the changes with the Export Development Corporation and extending the loan guarantee for one year. In addition, the export credit would be extended to up to three years.

I indicated as well that in a short period of time we expected that some \$200 million worth of trade would have taken advantage of these additional credit support programs and that we were actively seeking additional activity in trade missions, providing help and financial support, not only for trade missions which were formed within Canada to travel into the international market-place, but also we were actively encouraging trade missions from other countries to come to Canada to look at the commercial activities which could be developed.

I also indicated that Agriculture Canada, in close cooperation with the Department of External Affairs, had developed an export market information system. We would have clear identification within the two departments for the private sector to seek help and advice from both departments.

To be successful in expanding our trade horizons, I believe we must consult with industry, not just on trade matters but as a part of our over-all planning process. That is why my department is now involved with the industry in charting a course for the future of the major agricultural commodities which Canada produces. Six commodity groups have been established at Agriculture Canada, one for each of the major commodity areas, grains and oil seeds, red meat, poultry, dairy, horticultural and special crops. Teams involving both Government and industry are working together to create development plans for each commodity group. These plans will give Agriculture Canada and the industry a shared vision of where we are going and what we have to do to get there. By planning together, we are ensuring that resources in my department for research, market development, trade policy, or whatever, are in line with the plans of each commodity group. In this way, our resources will be targeted more effectively and more efficiently.

Time and time again the Government of Canada has demonstrated its high priority commitment to trade. As was said in the Speech from the Throne, our future is trade. The Government has faith that, given the proper environment, Canadian industry can compete abroad and can tap new trade opportunities. That is why we have targeted the Pacific Rim as a key region of the world for trade development.

This past April, my department, together with the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of External Affairs, co-sponsored the China Challenge Meeting here in Ottawa. The seminar brought together federal and provincial government people with representatives of agriculture and the food industry to share information about trade development in that very large country with its very large potential market. My department, together with other government departments, and the private sector, has taken