

*Canagrex*

**Mr. Malone:** So what?

**Mr. Simmons:** Again I hear the Hon. Member. I know his Party has long been in the pockets of multinationals, but that does not mean that we have to be in the pockets of the multinationals. Thank God we have that great Crown corporation.

**Mr. Mayer:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder whether the Hon. Member would accept a question.

**Mr. Simmons:** That is not a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Would the Hon. Member accept a question at this point?

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, I have very limited time. At the end of my ten minutes I would be delighted to accept questions for an hour or so.

Thank God we have that great Crown corporation called the Canadian Wheat Board. It was brought in by a Tory Government, albeit it was comprised of a bunch of Tories who had a lot more foresight than the modern Tories with whom we deal in the House. The Canadian Wheat Board was constituted by a Tory Government of former days. These Tories in their day gave the Canadian Wheat Board powers to buy and sell. In the words of Dan Morgan in his book "The Merchants of Grain", the Canadian Wheat Board is the most sophisticated grain marketing system in the world.

**Mr. Thacker:** You should try living under it.

**Mr. Simmons:** What are they against over there? They are against progress. We have known that for a long time. What in particular are they against?

**Mr. Mayer:** What do you know about grain?

**Mr. Simmons:** They are afraid of the possibility that one day Canagrex will become as successful in its mandate as the Canadian Wheat Board has become in respect of its mandate. That is their concern.

Let us get back to the persons who will be involved in the operation of this agency. They will be persons who come from the farming community. What do the Tories have against them?

**Mr. Malone:** They will be Liberals.

**Mr. Simmons:** They will be processors, businessmen and professional people who have an interest in Canada and have Canada at heart. They will have expertise in the production, processing, shipping and marketing sectors. They will be Canadians working together as partners for the benefit of Canadians. I do not find that sinister. I think it is a good formula, and that is why I support it with such enthusiasm this afternoon.

**Mr. Thacker:** You would support anything.

**Mr. Simmons:** I say to the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) that I cannot support anything. For example, I cannot support his candidate for the leadership of the Tory Party.

Since 1971 Canadian wheat sales have skyrocketed from \$832 million to \$4.25 billion 11 years later in 1982, an increase or more than 500 per cent. How could the Tories possibly deprive other sectors of Canadian agriculture of that kind of export benefit?

The Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills wanted to launch a fairly wide-ranging debate on Crown corporations. This is not the time to do that, but I look forward with enthusiasm to the day that he and I can debate that particular issue in the House of Commons. What does he have against the principle of Crown corporations? Is he also against Petro-Canada? If so, is he now articulating the latest position of the Tory Party that has been for Petro-Canada and against Petro-Canada? Is he for the great Canadian Broadcasting Corporation? Is he against the Canadian Wheat Board? Why did he not tell us how many subsidiaries of the Canadian Wheat Board there were? Why did he not take the time today to run through the list of subsidiaries of the Canadian Wheat Board? It would not have taken very long at all, and it would have been much more relevant to the item under debate now. He talked about the appointment of friends. I can only say to him that we on this side of the House have a nice problem in that respect. We find ourselves appointing friends to many boards. The reason is that we have so many friends it is difficult to appoint competent people to boards without appointing some of our friends.

Those poor reactionary Tories. Pavlov would have been pleased because they respond in Pavlovian style to everything. If we are for it, they are agin it. I invite them to put aside their partisanship and support a good Bill which will work to the good of Canadian agriculture in the years ahead.

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to deal with one or two comments that were made by Government Members. A few moments ago the Hon. Minister said that we had \$4.6 billion in export trade. Yes, but I add that we accomplished that without Canagrex. That was done by private industry, and that is exactly what we want to do. Also he asked why we were against export. We are not against export. We are not against an export agency. An Hon. Member of the New Democratic Party indicated that we were favouring some items to which we object. We are not opposed to exporting. We believe in exporting. We want to help exporting but we think it should be done through private enterprise. This Bill is putting another handcuff on free enterprise. This is what Government Members are doing.

Private enterprisers have put money into this area. They have been carrying out the export business. They have a lot of money invested in it. Now they will have to compete against Government money. Now they will have to compete against taxes which they themselves pay. They will now have to compete against that type of thing. Hon. Members of the Government and of the New Democratic Party think that that