

*Government Orders*

other means, example Treasury Board, Agriculture Canada agreements”.

So those concerns of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture have been taken care of.

I would also like to point out that farm-saved seed is not protected under this legislation if it is to be used on the farm. The legislation only applies to seed that is sold, and the farmer can save his own seed without payment of royalty.

**Mr. Althouse:** Madam Speaker, I know that. I pointed out in my speech that in both the British and European cases farm-saved seed was exempt and now the seed industry is trying to get it included. In fact Great Britain is moving in that direction. I point out to the minister that once you begin caving in to these series of demands you will never meet all the requirements of the international seed industry. They will ultimately end up continuing to get their way. We have begun a process here that can only be more expensive for farmers and can only reduce the number of choices they have available at the farm level.

I also want to point out that I was very careful in going through the original requirements that the CFA had in its brief to the committee and I think I did a fair and objective analysis. If they changed their mind in a letter afterward that is their business, but I reiterate that the bill and the committee did not meet those five conditions.

**Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River):** Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member for Mackenzie did an excellent job of outlining some of the technical impacts of the bill. I wonder if he might expand on his concerns with regard to the monopoly control by seed and chemical companies that might well flow from this particular legislation.

**Mr. Althouse:** Madam Speaker, some of these concerns are not just the United Church and NFU myth that the hon. member for Kindersley—Lloydminster points out, but are also concerns of the Canadian Environmental Law Association and a number of private analysts who look at the way corporate power in the world operates. The way multinational corporations function,

including multinational seed corporations, is to gain full control and reduce the surprises in other national markets. That is what they are trying to do, and succeeding to do, in this country with plant breeders' rights. They are establishing the same kinds of rules that they have in most western European countries and in the United States. Our law to this point in time is not quite as broad as the access in some countries, but it is getting there. They know that once they start, they can broaden it. They have got the door open and now it is just a matter of pushing it all the way.

• (1210)

The way for seed companies to achieve profits has been to be acquired by either pharmaceutical companies or oil and chemical companies. If you do an analysis of the largest seed companies in the world, you will find that they all have those kinds of connecting interlinks and connections. Those are the companies that provide the pesticides and fertilizers for our crops. It is generally seen that the kinds of programs that they are embarked upon for looking for new varieties tend to search for varieties that will tie in the use of their chemicals or their fertilizers as well.

You see a big expenditure in looking for atrazine resistant crops. You see programs to utilize the chemicals that they have so that the farmer is not only going to want to buy the seed, but he will be forced to buy the chemical because the seed will not work without the chemical. There is an interdependency link there. It is simply a good economic and business kind of linkage that is now being reinforced by the laws of this country.

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Madam Speaker, as you will probably recall, at second reading I made an intervention on this bill quite at length. Today, I will limit my remarks to a brief intervention.

First I would like to explain to those who are watching this debate on TV that what we are debating here today is in essence the rights respecting breeding plants on the part of those who are interested in this particular human activity. Basically, we are discussing whether these rights should remain in the public sector where they have