

That concern has been expressed by church groups and many other groups which came before the committee. I would think that the government might be willing to accept this amendment so that the report that will be made after the operation of the legislation for a number of years will, as much as possible, indicate the exact impact of the bill with regard to those three items which I have listed today. Some of these things are very difficult to quantify.

I would hope that the parliamentary secretary, on behalf of the minister, might be willing to accept this amendment today. I think it touches on a number of areas of great concern to Canadians. At least in the annual report, if not in the parliamentary review which is provided for in this bill, those items of concern to many Canadians would be reported.

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I will try to be as brief as possible. This motion incorporates the new section proposed for the minister's report.

I would like to list the difficulties posed by attempting to report on development in sustainable agriculture. There is no single agreed definition of what is meant by sustainable agriculture. There is no current measure of the level of sustainable agriculture against which to make comparisons. There are several thrusts, both federal and provincial, to develop the concepts of sustainable agriculture. While one of those thrusts is the breeding of varieties with improved pest and disease resistance, this is only part of the necessary changes. Other changes involve cropping patterns and systems of husbandry.

It can be hoped and expected that in ten years the level of sustainable agriculture will have increased. However, it may be difficult to quantify since the current level is undefined.

In addition, it would be very difficult to determine what proportion of any change will be attributable to the plant breeders' rights legislation rather than any of the other thrusts.

Although clause 77 of the bill does not specify that there will be a report on public plant breeding developments, it is implied in several of the items. An example

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of this would be improvement of plant varieties to the public benefit and any other public advantage.

It seems unnecessary to spell out every single item that might be an important factor in a report to be delivered in ten years time.

The plant breeders' rights bill is intended to encourage plant breeding in Canada and for Canada. It is possible, although rather unlikely, that some of the new varieties developed may be of potential application in Third World countries.

Currently, there is no marketing of Canadian varieties to Third World countries although some Canadian developed varieties have been used as the basis for plant breeding of improved varieties in the Third World countries.

The introduction of plant breeders' rights in Canada will facilitate the export of seed of protected varieties to other countries. However, this will only impact on exports to other developed countries with similar legislation. It will not influence the export of seed to Third World countries.

The major impediments to Canadian seed exports to Third World countries are the lack of varieties adapted to their conditions and the lack of a seed industry in those countries ready to import and distribute seed.

Seed exports to Third World countries from Canada are not anticipated. In the broader area of the transfer of technology to Third World countries, there are numerous Canadian programs intended to transfer technology to such countries. These include some plant breeding programs funded by CIDA. However, there is no relationship between these programs and the introduction of plant breeders rights' legislation in Canada.

The development of sustainable agriculture in Third World countries clearly will be determined by their national priorities. It would be inappropriate for Canada to try to direct other countries' agricultural programs in a particular direction. Canada can only respond to requests for particular expertise to be made available.

It is impossible to establish a clear relationship between the introduction of plant breeders' rights legislation in Canada and either the transfer of technology to Third World countries or the development of sustainable agriculture in such countries. This proposal is irrelevant to the measurable impact of this legislation.