

*Excise Tax Act*

member for Lincoln (Mr. Andres). If there is one man in this House who can take credit for having the excise tax provisions changed in favour of the domestic grape and wine industry, it is the hon. member for Lincoln and really no one else, because he is the one who did all the work, and he is far too modest to go out and grab headlines.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Where was he in October?

**Mr. Young:** I think I should just read this for hon. members opposite. It says:

Dear Bill: I have been reading over our April issue of the "Ontario Grape Grower", and I can see that we owe you and our other Niagara Peninsula members of parliament a big apology—not for something we said, but for something we sadly neglected to say.

In a front-page item "Government lifts threat on labelling", we reported on the decision of the Consumer Affairs Minister not to proceed with the proposed appellations of origin regulations. In the article, we quickly pointed out that the Marketing Board opposed the regulations from the beginning, and that support was lent to this stand by the Canadian Wine Institute, several Niagara Regional municipalities, chambers of commerce and other organizations.

What we did not say—and I would like to assure you, Bill, that it was an oversight and not a deliberate omission—was that our local members, yourself included, played a major part in the successful opposition to the regulations by lending your strong support to our cause. I do want you to know that we do appreciate the important work you have done for us in this and other areas of concern.

I would like to express my personal apologies for the fact that we neglected to mention your work in the "Grape Grower" article. We will be carrying a follow-up article in the upcoming issue, giving credit where credit is due.

The letter is signed by Keith Matthie, secretary manager, Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Send him a copy of your speech.

**Mr. Young:** I have on my desk and in my office files which are now about twelve inches thick on the grape and wine industry, with some similar letters in them. I do not intend to read all of them into the record, but I think that for the purposes of putting the record straight some of the comments which were made should be included. I just might mention some of them without trying to be too immodest. I have a letter from Andrés Wines Ltd., which has no connection with the hon. member for Lincoln, even though the name is spelled the same. It reads:

We at Andrés Wines and the other members of the Canadian grape and wine industry greatly appreciate your continued fine efforts on our behalf. As your constituents in Lincoln, we are especially pleased with the concern and leadership which you have shown in this issue.

There are several letters addressed to myself one from Andrés Wines, one from the president of Brights Wines, one from the president of Chateau-Gai, one from the president of the Canadian Wine Institute, and one from the secretary of the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board. All of these say the same thing. They all say that they thank us and appreciate the concern and leadership which has been shown by us. They do not just come to myself or to my colleague, the hon. member for Lincoln individually. They come to many hon. members from the Niagara Peninsula and others throughout the caucus on this side of the House who have shown such great support.

[Mr. Young.]

The industry is thankful that some of this work is being done on its behalf in this country.

**Mr. Symes:** How did you vote in the November budget?

**Mr. Young:** I will make some closing remarks. I hope for the benefit of some of the members that I have put the record straight. There are those who ask what I did in November. I know what I did in November. What did hon. members opposite do? I will tell them what they did not do in October and November.

In October and November when the industry wanted to get in touch with the government, they came here looking for members of parliament to talk to at that time. We were asking for, looking for, and welcoming any help there might have been from the other side of the House, but when the members who were concerned showed up in my office I did not see any of the hon. members opposite. When we went to see the officials of the Department of Finance I did not see any of the hon. members opposite.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Who did you invite?

**Mr. Peters:** Only Liberals.

**Mr. Young:** When we had meetings when we asked for support from over there, and when we asked who in the opposition parties had wineries and graperies in their constituencies and who would be interested in helping us fight the cause, there was nothing forthcoming. We got a little bit of a play and some headline grabbing in the House, but I repeat that there are those who come to do some work and those who come to get headlines.

● (1620)

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I might say on behalf of those of us who have attempted to do some work for the grape and wine industry, especially my colleagues in the Niagara Peninsula, that having been here for just one year and accomplishing a couple of things like having the government change its policy, we feel rather proud of what has been done by three rookie members of parliament.

**Mr. Baldwin:** All modest.

**Mr. Young:** Perhaps it seems a little bit immodest to the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), but when one has the letters that I read into the record it is not necessary to go back and tell one's constituents and members of the industry what has been done. They know, Mr. Speaker. The only reason I read the letters was because the issue was raised in a braggadocio manner with the hon. member on the other side claiming all the credit. I have done no more than set the record straight.

Hon. members from the Niagara region have had some feeling of accomplishment, rather like an artist, a labourer or a writer who having put something together, feels some pride. They want to look at what has been done and perhaps ask themselves if they could have done more or if they have done all they can. It may be that having closed our eyes for a moment we looked up again to find that before the cement has dried, before the paint has set or the ink has dried on the page, a plagiarist had come in and