

Canagrex

Europe and the United States, I cannot understand why the Government across the way would be eliminating one of the few tools we have.

Is it Canagrex today and the Canadian Wheat Board tomorrow? The Canadian Wheat Board is the exporter of farmers' grain. It is the sole selling agency for Canadian grain. Will the Government bargain it away in free trade negotiations with the United States?

There is no wheat board in the United States. There is no grain board in the United States. Americans sell their grain on the so-called private market where the big five or six grain companies do all the bartering and bargaining. American farmers are in the hands of those big grain companies and of course receive massive subsidies from the United States Treasury. If my memory serves me correctly, the present situation is that American farmers receive more in subsidy for a bushel of grain than do Canadian farmers for their entire price per bushel of grain. That is extremely unfair.

Because of the U.S. Farm Bill and European subsidies, we need Canagrex more than ever. Canagrex is supported by the overwhelming majority of farmers in my constituency, be they NDP, Liberal, or PC.

It is another example of the Government of Canada going against the wishes of Canadian farmers and against the wishes of the people of the country. It is one of the reasons the Government of Canada is the first Government in our history to be not first, nor second, but third in the public opinion polls. I suspect that if the Rhinoceros Party were well organized, the Government would be fourth in the public opinion polls. The Tories do not listen to people. They do not understand the Canadian tradition or the Canadian way of life. In fact, they do not even understand their own traditions. A tradition of the Conservative Party of Canada was one which believed in a mixed economy. It was their Party which started the Canadian Wheat Board, CBC, Air Canada, and CNR. Their Party, under Sir John A. Macdonald, John Diefenbaker, the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), and others, was progressive. Their Party is now becoming more and more like Ronald Reagan's Republicans in terms of privatization, deregulation, and free trade.

It is a betrayal of the roots of the Conservative Party of Canada and it is a betrayal of the heritage of the Conservative Party of Canada for it to try to emulate and imitate Ronald Reagan and the Republicans in the United States. That is what is happening with the Conservative Party of Canada, and that is why people are leaving the Conservative Party of Canada in droves.

I am talking about the vision of this country by Sir John A. Macdonald, John Diefenbaker, and even the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead when he was Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. It was a more progressive vision. It was more of a red Tory vision of Canada. However, the current Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is trying to change that. The current Prime Minister is a clone of Ronald Reagan.

He is a clone of the Republican Party of the United States. He is a clone of Margaret Thatcher. That is not the Canadian tradition. That is not the tradition of the Conservative Party.

It is little wonder that Canagrex is being abolished by this Prime Minister, this philosophy, and this ideology. It is the kind of thing John Diefenbaker would never do if he were Prime Minister of Canada. It is the kind of thing that would not happen if the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead were Prime Minister of Canada. It is the kind of thing that would not happen under the Conservative Party of Sir John A. Macdonald of many years ago, which Party had a national vision of the country.

It is no wonder that the majority of Conservative Members who are here today will be finishing not second, but third in the next election campaign in their ridings. They have forgotten to listen to the people of Canada.

I appeal to some of those back-benchers, like the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour) who had the courage to speak out, to speak out and say publicly what they say privately to us. They should say publicly what they say privately when they criticize the Prime Minister and the direction in which he is going. At least the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona had the courage of his convictions to say publicly what his constituents were telling him.

Mr. Brisco: Look at what happened to the Hon. Member for Selkirk—Interlake (Mr. Holtmann); he spoke out and got kicked in the foot.

Mr. Nystrom: I hear the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco). He said that the Hon. Member for Selkirk—Interlake (Mr. Holtmann) spoke out and got kicked in the foot. No doubt it was by one of his angry constituents who was an ex-supporter of the PCs. That shows how angry the people of Canada are at the PC Government.

It is no wonder the PCs are running a bad third in Manitoba. I understand that they are sitting at about 15 per cent or 16 per cent in the polls out there. Of course, one reason is Canagrex. Another reason is that they have not listened to the farmers of the country.

I know that some big city members of the Conservative Party will laugh, that some of the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver members of the Conservative Party will laugh, but I should like to quote a statement which appeared in the *Norquay North Star*. I know they will ask: "Where is Norquay?" The Hon. Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson) knows where Norquay is, but some of the big city Tories do not and do not care, I suppose. Norquay is a small community in my riding. The people of Norquay are concerned about the future of agriculture.

I should like to refer to a front page story which appeared in the March 26 edition of the *Norquay North Star* which was headlined "Farmers will not seed a third of their land". Hon. Members should be aware of what that article said. In part it reads: