

*Canagrex*

I voiced my concern about the Bill on second reading and in committee. I pointed out, as forcefully as I could, the dangers inherent in the Bill because it gives the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and the Government the potential of complete control, not only of production of agricultural products but of the food chain as well.

It is a further extension of the Government's social philosophy which has crept in since the Party opposite was taken over by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), a Prime Minister whose background and writings have dedicated him to socialism, Marxism and all the other "isms" which exist.

**Mr. Smith:** That is absolute garbage.

**Mr. Stewart:** He has written it down. Read it.

**Mr. Neil:** Obviously, the Hon. Member on the other side has not taken the time to read some of the writings of his Leader.

**Mr. Smith:** I have read them. By their deeds ye shall know them.

**Mr. Neil:** I am sure that if he had read them, then he would understand what is happening to his Party and what is happening to the country. If he says that he has read them, then obviously he has not understood them.

**Mr. Smith:** Oh, I did both.

**Mr. Thacker:** Or else he agrees.

**Mr. Huntington:** He supports him.

**Mr. Neil:** It is interesting that when the Bill was in committee and Members of the Official Opposition were proposing to remove a number of clauses, buy and sell, joint ventures and so on, we attempted to bring in as witnesses senior officials from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and from the Department of External Affairs who have been involved over the years in the type of promotion which the Bill authorizes. I moved a motion in committee that these witnesses appear before the committee, but it was voted down by the Government Members.

I am wondering what will happen if the Bill passes, as it undoubtedly will because of the Government majority and the support of the NDP. What will happen to the agricultural arm of IT&C which is out in the world trying to sell our goods, and what will happen to the agricultural representatives of the Department of External Affairs? Surely the whole aspect should have been examined to determine whether or not the Bill was necessary or whether or not IT&C and the Department of External Affairs should have been given additional powers to carry out the functions of which the Minister speaks.

However, it seems to me that the Minister of Agriculture is interested in power. He wants control, control of the production of agricultural products and control of the food chain. Otherwise, why would he include buy and sell clauses? Why would he include joint ventures? He says: "All I want is a window on the industry". We know what a window on the industry is. The Bill is wide enough that the Minister of

Agriculture or Canagrex could end up putting quotas on various agricultural products. We would have a situation where the producer could no longer make the decision as to what products he would produce in a particular year or how he would sell them, except through this organization which has such sweeping powers.

**Mr. Whelan:** You know that is nonsense.

**Mr. Neil:** The Minister says that it is nonsense. We asked the Minister in committee and on numerous other occasions, if what we are speaking about is nonsense, why he leaves these clauses in the Bill. The Minister said on several occasions that he had no intention of exercising many of the powers contained in the Bill.

**Mr. Huntington:** Why put them in the Bill?

**Mr. Neil:** We said that if he does not intend to exercise these powers, he should remove them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Neil:** What did he say? He said: "Some of the Provinces have legislation with similar types of clauses".

**Mr. Huntington:** The Prime Minister won't let him.

**Mr. Neil:** We do not care what the Provinces have. We are concerned about the Bill, the country and the agricultural industry.

**Mr. Whelan:** There are no such powers in that Bill that you claim there are, no such powers.

**Mr. Neil:** The Minister is repeating, like a broken record, the things he said over the years, not only in committee but in public as well.

**Mr. Whelan:** Just state the facts as they are, that's all.

**Mr. Neil:** I am fast running out of time, and if there are any more interventions by Hon. Members on the other side, I will run out of time. However, I would like to suggest that one of the serious flaws in the Bill is the fact that Canagrex could operate on a regional basis. It could divide the country even more than it is divided today, because if Canagrex went offshore and found markets, it would be faced with the situation where the Minister or Canagrex would have to make a decision as to whether or not such a contract went to eastern Canada, western Canada, the Maritimes or wherever. That would be quite a chore.

Take, for example, the pork producer. Supposing the Minister went offshore and obtained a contract for the sale of pork. We have pork producers in Quebec, in Ontario and in western Canada. Who would receive the contract? Would the Minister or Canagrex make the decision and say: "Oh, this contract goes here, into a certain area, because they are having a few more problems than us", or perhaps because there were more votes in that particular area?