

Canagrex

that has already gone on for 85 hours in committee. The amendments were brought in on July 19, 1982, and today again, they are indulging in systematic obstruction because all they know how to say is no.

However, their differences on the subject of national policies have put the Progressive Conservatives in the Opposition for several decades, and those differences, their inability to agree on national policies, will continue to keep them in the Opposition, Mr. Speaker.

They referred to—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please! The Hon. Member's time has expired.

[*English*]

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, for the Government to bring Canagrex, Bill C-85, into the House of Commons when it has probably less than ten days of Government business between now and the date of rising for the summer recess is nothing but public mischief. The trouble in the country today is that the people have lost all trust and faith in this Government. This Bill leads to control over individual lives, control over the Canadian farming community and Canadian farmers and control over businesses in the food chain.

This is not a farmers' Bill. It is not an agricultural Bill. It is a Bill that will touch the lives of all of us in Canada. It is just like the Government's mischief in turning 180 degrees on the Gilson formula for the resolution of the Crow debate in Canada. It is doing this in the dying hours of this session, provided we do not come in and renew it on July 4 or later in the fall.

Very few people have their eye on the real game that is being played and won in Ottawa. We all have a tendency to get locked into our own thing around here or to have our attention diverted by deliberate confrontations with labour, the Provinces, businesses and regions in this country. We just heard a speech by the Hon. Member for Laval (Mr. Roy). That is just trying to dig up regional alienation and confrontation. We are allowing mega-political change to take place in this country without an electoral mandate.

Before you worry about my speaking to the Bill, Mr. Speaker, I want to advise you that I am speaking to Motions Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, all grouped together. This means that in ten minutes I have to speak in rather broad, general terms. I therefore ask your forgiveness if I do not stay within specific limits.

On the point that I am making, in the weekend paper Mr. Tetley had his finger on the kind of mischief we are getting into in this House in our political alienation and the antagonism that is developing within regions. Speaking of the next election, Mr. Tetley said:

But don't ever count the dreaded Grits out of the big race that is yet to come.

When the Party that brought you Japanese internment camps in the Second World War starts worrying about racism and bigotry, you can bet there is something up their sleeve other than somebody else's silverware.

Save Quebec they whisper and ethnic the hell out of Ontario. Screw the West and we'll win again.

● (1520)

That seems to be the type of mistrust that is developing in the country, especially on the part of some of us out West, in response to the Government's attitude in bringing in Bill C-85 in the last hours of the session. What has the Government done to the potential we had? The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) had the potential to create a very positive debate on the Crow and implement the Gilson proposals right in the palm of his hand. But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the way he went about it was not rough, tough politics. He had pacified the country in a very intelligent way. That is what the Minister of Agriculture should be doing with this Bill instead of imposing closure on it and forcing the hand of the House on something of this magnitude that affects the lives of every Canadian, the whole food industry in the country and changes the whole structure and nature of the country. Instead of that, he is trying to pull this kind of a trick. No wonder some of us are annoyed.

Today we have heard much from the Minister and from the Hon. Member for Laval. They have indicated that we as a Party were gifted in the art of putting Crown corporations in place. That is quite true, but if the Hon. Member for Laval knew anything about Crown corporations, he would know that they have a history. First we were in a pioneering phase, then we were in a depression phase. There then followed a wartime period. Mr. Howe, a great Canadian, created 32 Crown corporations during that national emergency. Only one of those Crown corporations was phased out after the war.

Following that phase, there was a nationalism and patriotism phase that created further Crown corporations. We then went to the mixed enterprise phase that the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) introduced in 1968 in order to create a mixed economy, and Crown corporations were used for that. Then from 1972 on, Mr. Speaker, we went to a proliferation phase.

I can remember when Treasury Board officials were asked in committee how many Crown corporations there were, they did not know. Four months later they came back with an inventory of 387 Crown corporations. That is what has happened to the country. We have allowed a subgovernment across the country to remove power from the House of Commons. We have transferred power, and it is this raw, bald power over freedom, over lives, over the right to choose that we have transferred to this subgovernment. It is a power that you and I will never have, Mr. Speaker. Kings and queens do not have the kind of power that some of the officials of these Crown corporations have. The new emperors of Canada are the Maurice Strongs and the Jack Austins. These are the men who are in control of a power that is beyond belief. Kings and queens have never had that kind of power. I as a Member of Parliament who represents people from western Canada want that power restricted.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!