

*Canagrex*

addition to an agency like Canagrex we need a foreign aid program which would help the poor countries of the world become self-sufficient by exporting Canadian technology and know-how to other parts of the world.

In my own riding there are many farmers who have produced food for 20, 30 or 40 years. They are now in their sixties and want to retire. They have a good farming unit on which they owe no money. They can turn it over to a son, a daughter, or someone else and make a contribution in other parts of the world by helping people help themselves, by helping countries become self-sufficient in the production of food. That is the kind of role this country could be playing.

There are many farmers who have tremendous expertise as soil scientists and mechanics. There are farmers who know what kinds of crops to plant on certain land, how to plan crops, and proper harvesting procedures. They could give all kinds of advice to people in different parts of the world on how to become more productive. It is a tremendous waste of human potential and human resources not to have some of these people working with people in other parts of the world to increase their food production. If we had more imagination we could solve the problem of distribution of food.

As a wealthy country in the developed world all too often we import from Third World countries luxury crops grown on very productive lands which could be used to produce food. I think in particular of the good quality land which produces tobacco and cotton in various parts of the world. There are people starving in countries which produce those commodities for the wealthier countries of the world. They are using their best lands to produce those crops for export. Nine times out of 10 that land is owned by wealthy landlords. The ordinary peasants make a few pennies a day for working on the land and their neighbours are starving. It does not make any sense that there is starvation in a world of plenty.

There are many issues we should be dealing with in this House in attempting to ensure that all people in the world, regardless of the colour of their skin, their religious history, or what ideology happens to be in power in their country, are provided with food, management skills, scientific know-how, and so on to ensure that they do not starve. As I said, we seem to have no problem spending billions of dollars every year on the production of nuclear arms in a mad and insane race to kill each other. We could spend half that money feeding the world and making it a much more peaceful place. That is one of the missions this country could be proceeding with.

This is a Bill to kill Canagrex. It was, in its short eight-month life, helping the farmers of Canada find markets around the world. It is very important that we have Canagrex in this age of protectionism. There is tremendous protectionism now in Europe, Japan and the United States. If we are really to sell our commodities we need an agency which will hustle and show some real life.

**Mr. Hockin:** We need free trade.

**Mr. Nystrom:** The Minister talks about freer trade. I certainly agree that we need freer multilateral trade around the world. Anyone who objects to that is not thinking of the best interests of this country. I certainly agree that we need freer trade and fairer trade around the world. My objection to a free trade arrangement with the United States is that it is a case of a mouse and an elephant. It will not be free trade for Canadians. We will be stamped on.

I come from a part of the country which is being screwed by the proposition for free trade. If we had free trade, the Canadian Wheat Board would have to be abolished because it inhibits free trade as a marketing agency. You either have free trade or you do not. I do not think there should be free trade between the United States and Canada because the small country will be shafted.

I believe we can have trade arrangements with the United States, and the Auto Pact is a very good example of that. However, the Auto Pact is not free trade, it is regulated trade. The Conservative Party does not know of what it speaks when it talks of free trade.

The question before the House is on Canagrex, and the important thing is that we have an agency which sells the goods and commodities produced by the farmers of this country. That is very important in this age of protectionism with the hustling of American, Japanese and European exporters to sell their goods. Yet our Government is abolishing the very agency which could sell more of the farmers' products. If the Government is indeed interested in promoting trade and export, Canagrex should have been kept.

The reason, other than protectionism, that I believe Canagrex should stay is that the farmers are suffering in a crisis worse than any crisis since the 1930s. Farm prices have dropped to the levels at which they were in 1932 and 1933. On the other hand, farm input costs have been skyrocketing in the last 20 or 30 years. If we do not do something to help our farmers, many of our farms will disappear as will the rural way of life which we have known. I say that as a member from a very large farm riding in east central Saskatchewan.

The farmers are suffering because of the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) good friend, Ronald Reagan, and the U.S. Farm Bill. They are also suffering because of the foreign policy of the European Common Market. These two giants are having a trade war. They are massively subsidizing their own farmers and the export of their grain to different parts of the world. The people who are caught in the cross-fire are the farmers of Argentina, Australia and Canada. We are caught in the cross-fire, as there is a trade war between the two giants in agricultural production and agricultural export.

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What is the solution of the Canadian Government? It is taking away with this Bill one of the tools which farmers had to try to increase their exports. At a time when we have tremendous competition and tremendous protectionism in both