

*Canagrex*

are under the general direction, fully or partially, of Canadian National Railways, a Crown corporation? I just happened to add them up. I bet it would surprise the Minister to learn that there are 87 of them. This is one of the dangers, Mr. Speaker, of which we must be aware. CN has 87 proliferated parts. This is not Canagrex, Mr. Speaker, this is "Canaworms". And it is just twisting around like that, just waiting to get out and proliferate. The Minister knows that if you cut a worm, it makes two worms, does it not? If you cut the two worms, then you have four worms.

**An Hon. Member:** No, you do not.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Yes, you do.

**Mr. Neil:** They are thinking of the wrong kind of worms. We know the kind.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** That is right, we know the kind. This is basically the problem which has me deeply concerned, the proliferation of this particular Canagrex or "can a worms" as I prefer to call it. I feel that we should also bear in mind that the buying and selling, and some of the other functions assigned to the corporation, could all too easily, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the Minister, lead us into the collective farm development, which, I hope, we all deplore in the Soviet Union and which cannot produce food at the same rate and as well as does private enterprise in Canada. I am told by someone who knows that about 22 per cent of the agricultural land in the Soviet Union is in the hands of private enterprisers, individuals; the rest is in the hands of the state. But that 22 per cent which is in the hands of individual enterprisers who are committed to their soil and get out of that soil what they know that soil can produce, produces five times as much as that 78 per cent of land held by people who have no interest in the soil. This is the sort of thing, Mr. Speaker, that we are facing down the road if this "Canaworms" gets to become law. This is the fear which Canadians have.

None of us knows how many Crown corporations there are in this country. I have run across four different numbers. I will wager the Minister of Agriculture could not tell me how many Crown corporations there are in Canada. I have read the Treasury Board report, for example, which recently came out, where 315 are listed. The Hon. Member for Scarborough East (Mr. Gilchrist) asked that question on the Order Paper. The reply was that there were 179 Crown corporations. Now, was that a lie? It must have been. That or the respondent was ignorant. That is possible, of course. But the Minister signed the answer saying that there was only 179 Crown corporations. The Auditor General, on the other hand, on page 49 of his report of March 31, 1982, says there were 306. Then I see that Charles Lynch, in a report in *The Citizen*, on June 1, reckons there are 320. So we have 315 on the one hand, or 179, or 306, or 320. I do not think we need any more Crown corporations in this country under this Government.

• (1700)

Someone mentioned the number of Crown corporations under Petro-Canada. I started to go through that and it immediately seriously worried me. Then there is Canadair, which is now up on the block, if that is the right place. Well, it should have its head chopped off, having a deficit of \$1.5 billion. It claims to be responsible and yet, it has affiliates; it has spawned six subsidiaries in one way or another.

**Mr. Whelan:** You tell me how many Crown corporations have been spawned under agriculture. Can you say how many there are?

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Agriculture is a growing industry and Canagrex would be a growing Crown corporation. The seeds are there.

**Mr. Whelan:** We could have used Orders in Council to set it up but I chose legislation.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Oh, boy, talk about Orders in Council! He wants to know about Orders in Council. Did he realize that Clause 15 of this Bill says:

There shall be paid to Canagrex annually on the requisition of the Minister an amount of money appropriated by Parliament for that purpose.

That is only one of the ways it gets its money. In Clause 17 it says:

At the request of Canagrex, the Minister of Finance may, with the approval of the Minister, lend money to Canagrex out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund on terms and conditions approved by the Governor in Council.

Where is Parliament? This is the danger of Crown corporations.

**Mr. Whelan:** The programs have to be submitted in advance to Parliament.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** In advance to whom?

**Mr. Whelan:** To Parliament.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I wish the Minister would cite the clause. I would be glad to know. I have looked for that link with Parliament in this legislation. That is what really worries so many of us, Mr. Speaker. There is no direct line to Parliament in this legislation. Then I read in Clause 36(1):

In each financial year, Canagrex shall prepare a capital budget . . . and shall submit it to the Minister for his approval and the approval of the Minister of Finance and the Treasury Board.

That is fine, that is the responsibility of the Government to do that sort of thing. But, and here we were being completely misled not very long ago by one of the previous speakers, it says in Clause 36(5):

The Minister shall cause a copy of the summary of a capital budget approved by him to be tabled in Parliament—

Then we are told that the tabling of a report or request of that sort goes to a committee and is therefore automatically open to Parliament to question. That is not true, Mr. Speaker. The tabling of a report to a committee does not cause that committee to meet on that subject. That is what the Special