

*Canagrex*

system of grants to any sector of the economy, you create a dependency on the Government and an atmosphere of insecurity which makes that sector vulnerable.

Second, we have the energy field, the second sector of the economy which the Government by design is taking into an area of state control through a system of overtaxation, grants and other mediums. The direct control of exploration and development of resources is not now a matter of the magic of the marketplace but a matter of the National Energy Program and PetroCan. Members will recall that originally Petro-Canada was set up to be only a window on the industry. Some window! It is now a major determinant of the energy direction of Canada as far as the Government is concerned. What we find so offensive is that PetroCan is not a window on the industry, but is in a privileged position in the industry. The Government directs its energy policy through that Government corporation. It is not simply that there are a few PetroCan stations across Canada, but that it now has a privileged position in the industry. Through the back-in provisions, all of the other companies are held in servitude to that one Government corporation.

This brings me to Canagrex. We have the same principle being invoked in this Government corporation. Whereas it was the grant system in the obsolescent industries in Canada and the grant and back-in provisions in the energy field, we now have the buy and sell provisions. They will give the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) through Order in Council or any provision control of the food industry in Canada.

**Mr. Whelan:** That is nonsense and you know it.

**Mr. Friesen:** The Minister had the chance to introduce the Bill. He mumbled throughout the speech of the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger). He is now intervening when I am speaking. He will have a chance to wrap up the comments on this Bill. Let him wait until then.

Bill C-85 is not an innocent or innocuous support for an ailing industry.

**Mr. Whelan:** Just nonsense.

**Mr. Friesen:** I know it is too much to ask the Minister of Agriculture to keep his mouth shut.

**Mr. Whelan:** Tell your colleagues to be quiet.

**Mr. Huntington:** Now you have the Speaker up.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Yes. It is the Speaker's duty to protect the right of the Member who has the floor. I invite Hon. Members to co-operate with the Chair.

**Mr. Whelan:** Tell them to be quiet too.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** If the shoe fits, it is a size 15.

**Mr. Friesen:** As I was saying before I was interrupted by the Minister of Agriculture, Bill C-85, Canagrex, is not an innocent or innocuous support system for an ailing industry. It is the beginning of a major intervention in the most vulnerable

industry in our country. Members have enough agricultural roots to know that the farmer has enough to do to cope with the vicissitudes of nature. Witness what is happening in southern Ontario this year where the farmers cannot get into the fields to plant their crops.

**Mr. Whelan:** I suppose that is my fault.

**Mr. Friesen:** That is a major problem which the farmers face. Now they are being asked to cope with the vicissitudes and whims of a bureaucracy. It is the magic of the marketplace which makes any industry function. We used to think about the threat of the dictatorship of the proletariat and about all those other ideological terms. I am convinced that the dictatorship of the proletariat is no longer the major threat. We are now facing the dictatorship of the bureaucracy.

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We should remind ourselves what the Bill is about. They talk about what my Bill is doing and what the Minister is doing. I have some rights as a Member of Parliament. The Member should say who started Crown corporations. It was the Conservative Government that set up the CNR, the CBC, other huge corporations such as the Canadian Wheat Board. Is he saying that is bad? The Wheat Board was started in 1935 by a Tory Government.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order.

**Mr. Friesen:** If the enlightened comments of the Minister of Agriculture were worth responding to, I would take the time, but they seldom are. This reminds me of the former Right Hon. Member for Prince Albert who used to say he read all of the Minister's speeches, sometimes for information but mostly for amusement. That is generally the category in which his remarks fall.

**Mr. Whelan:** We know what your Party did to him.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order.

**Mr. Friesen:** We are facing the intrusion of bureaucratic control into a very vulnerable industry. As my friend for Wetaskiwin pointed out, even those countries which have elected bona fide socialist Governments—we have a socialist Government which does not call itself by that name—have not included in their corporations relating to agriculture these buy and sell provisions. What we face is the opportunity for Government corporations to move into the food sections of every urban area. They will build stores. This is why the Consumers' Association is opposed to it. They will build retail outlets to package and sell and they will be major competitors in the food industry.

That is why we are so opposed to this legislation. It is because the Government is disturbing the marketplace. It is not allowing farmers to be what they are, the most productive people in the country. That is why we will oppose this legislation right to the very end.