advice as need be, to negotiate between states in the many circumstances where it is desirable or essential to do so, to share the risks and support long term development projects, to meet advertising requirements, to provide guarantees and enable its employees to accept upon request the responsibility of looking actively for market opportunities.

We have learned—

These are the words of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which asked us to give passage to Bill C-85 concerning Canagrex and which told us:

We have learned that the projections—

On pages 10 and 11 of the brief presented to us in early November 1982, the Federation said:

We have learned that the projection for an export potential of $500 million which, to be fully developed, requires facilities and services such as those Canagrex can offer are based on factual data and an assessment by the industry.

The industry and the governments work together and cooperate increasingly throughout the world as more and more emphasis is placed on attaining an adequate share of the market. Canada must follow suit.

This is what the Canadian Federation of Agriculture told us, Mr. Speaker. The Federation, which represents the farm producers of all Canadian provinces including Quebec and Ontario, recommends that the Government proceed with the Canagrex Bill. This organization says that the Canadian Government must follow the example of other countries and make it possible for Canadians to export their farm products and it believes that Canagrex would provide the means to develop our export potential and that we should proceed with this bill. Following our discussions in committee, where so many amendments were proposed by the Minister, the Official Opposition finally wanted to move another amendment which would have eliminated any possibility of the Canagrex Bill being effective. Mr. Speaker, it is because of the numerous empty speeches made by Members opposite, merely delaying tactics, that the Government must now ask the House to vote on a time allocation motion, which will make it possible for a few Hon. Members to debate the bill, because the Official Opposition is so divided on this bill that it refuses to let farm communities across Canada know how divided it is and how difficult it is for its members to stand as one behind their official critic on the Canagrex issue. That is also the reason why, under the present House procedure, we had to proceed in this manner and make it possible for Canadians involved in agriculture who clamour for Canagrex to have the bill passed as soon as possible, following the numerous discussions and meetings held by the Committee on Agriculture chaired by my colleague the Hon. Member for Rimouski-Témiscouata (Mrs. Côté), a committee which has heard witnesses as well as the representations some Hon. Members were eager to make. And whenever we meet representatives of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, they say: Let us go ahead, we fully support Canagrex. Quebec farmers, through their Union des producteurs agricoles, have appeared before the Committee on Agriculture and told about their situation, and I know that the Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), the only Progressive Conservative Party Member from Quebec in Ottawa was present at the committee meeting at the time and told us: We endorse the principle of Canagrex, but next to him three of his colleagues were shaking their heads. That is why they refuse to vote on this bill. If they will not debate this Canagrex bill, it is because they are divided, but a federation which represents all farm producers throughout the country is telling us to go ahead. Mr. Speaker, this is why—I see the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) is smiling. On a few occasions he came to the committee on Agriculture, and put forward a few motions, always with a smile of course, but he also wanted that such or such a group be heard. I know you understand French, my friend! He wanted to move that such or such a group be heard, although he had not been requested to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this is why in my view the situation could not go on, and when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) gave this notice, and I see another Hon. Member opposite is saying the same thing, Mr. Speaker, I think it was necessary to proceed this way. Canadian farmers represented by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture wanted and still want the Canagrex legislation, and this is what the Government and Liberal Members will do to enable Canadian farmers to have a bill they have been demanding for so long.

[*English*]

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party does not condone in principle the use of closure or of Standing Order 75C, whatever title the Minister might want to give it. He may call it time allocation. We think there has not been adequate time to deal with this Bill. We think 90 minutes was not an adequate amount of time for a debate of this Bill.

Having said that, I think we should also make it quite clear that we do not condone some of the activities which have occurred on this side of the House on the part of the Official Opposition. Such activities as staying behind the curtain when the bell rings, or raising points of procedure for two or three days. We have wasted more time in not dealing with Canagrex than we would have spent had the House Leaders come to an agreement and handled the Bill in the way Bills are ordinarily handled. We think this House has always operated, when it is operating properly, with a spirit of confidence. That is because the House Leaders have confidence that their Parties will back them up. This has not always occurred on this particular Bill. In fact, it has not occurred very much on a lot of Bills. We see time and time again a Party open up debate, present one point of view and then switch half way through. This has been the trade mark of the Official Opposition during this past session.

• (2020)

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That will never happen with the NDP, we can tell you that. Once they are wrong, they are always wrong.

Mr. Althouse: Fine.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You never change your mind no matter how wrong you are.