

responsible to the people. I do not blame the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Hockin). He was not around while this measure was being undertaken. It is not his fault. Had he been the Minister of Finance, hopefully, he would have been more reasonable. However, he was not, and there is nothing we can do about that. He probably never will be because his Government will be turfed out of office before he gets a chance. That is unfortunate for him because he will never have a chance of really wielding the power in the Department of Finance. But I say to the Minister of State for Finance, the junior Minister of Finance, that I know that he who represents a riding in south-western Ontario would want such an organization—he should want it—to survive because, indeed, it could be very important for the constituents of his area.

[Translation]

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, I invite members from both sides of the House to act in a non-partisan way, to act on behalf of the Canadian agriculture and to tell Canadian farmers that we are here to support them, while telling the Minister of Finance to stay put. We are the ones in charge, because we have been elected by the Canadian people. We have been elected precisely to ensure that the Canadian agriculture gets some help. The Conservative Party committed itself to helping the Canadian agriculture and to protecting the programs geared to farmers, and in particular such a good program as Canagrex, established by the Hon. Eugene Whelan, who will remain one of the best Ministers of Agriculture Canada ever had. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to support what I have been saying and to defeat Bill C-2.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—National Defence—Proposed Saguenay shooting range—request for public hearings; The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Trade—Canada-United States negotiations—parliamentary debate on possible treaty; and the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Attewell)—Apartheid—South Africa—Prime Minister's scheduled Meeting with President of African National Congress.

### Canagrex

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CANAGREX DISSOLUTION ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wise that Bill C-2, an Act to dissolve Canagrex and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** If there are no questions and comments on the speech of the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria), the Chair will recognize the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom).

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words about Canagrex and the Bill that is before the House today. This is a very important piece of legislation to me. I suppose I am one of those people in the House who mourns the passing of Canagrex. I thought it was very important to have such an agency in Canada to promote the sale of the farm commodities of people in my constituency and other constituencies. I think Members of the House should be aware that Canagrex was born out of a need to promote the export of farm commodities to every corner of the world. I was one of those Members in the House a few years ago who supported the proposition made by the former Minister of Agriculture, the man with the green stetson, Mr. Eugene Whelan. At that time I asked Mr. Whelan why it took so long for the Liberal Government to introduce a piece of legislation to give us Canagrex which would promote the export of agricultural products from this country to places around the world. Many other countries have similar agencies which aggressively promote the export of food products. We were behind in that respect.

• (1600)

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that agriculture is the most important industry in this country. There is nothing more important to the world than the production of food. People around the world are dying of starvation by the hundreds of thousands every year. As we speak here in the House of Commons people are dying of starvation. There are young people and babies who do not get enough to eat.

I maintain that the problem is not a shortage of food. There is no such thing as a shortage of food. The problem is the distribution of food to the people who need it. We must come up with a mechanism for the distribution of food to the poor, hungry and starving. If we put half the imagination into that problem that we put into the production of nuclear arms and other things which are not necessary for life, we could wipe starvation from the face of the earth.

I realize that Canagrex would not have done all that, but it would have been one small tool for the exportation of our products to parts of the world where they could be used. In