

Canagrex

of his speech. I did not expect him to quit so soon, so I was reading some documents at my desk.

I am amazed by some of the things which have been said about the corporation we are proposing—Canagrex. The hon. member who just finished speaking referred to the fact that it was mentioned many years ago. As he pointed out, we in our party used it as part of our party platform in two different election campaigns. It was not hidden from the public. As late as this evening, I have been told, certain individuals on the news said that Canagrex would have a monopoly. I say that is an untruth and a falsehood. There is no way that it could possibly have a monopoly even in the first instance and, even more so, since the amendments were made in committee by members on different sides of the House. They suggested that we amend it so that it can only enter into a venture when requested to do so. I do not understand how these people can say the things which they said as late as this evening on public electronic media broadcasting. I say, “Shame on them” for what they are saying because they know darned well that it is not true.

Mr. Mayer: What is not true?

Mr. Whelan: There are no monopoly powers granted under the Canagrex act. The hon. member knows it as well as I do, and they know it as well as I do. But they have planted the fear in people’s minds that farmers will not be able to sell anything at all unless it is sold through Canagrex. I say that that is an outright falsehood, and they know that it is an outright falsehood, as far as that goes. They are guilty of a misdemeanour.

Mr. Mayer: You do not even know what a misdemeanour is.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I was as docile as I could be while they were talking. I cannot understand why they are a little aroused now. I am putting some of the facts on the record.

An hon. Member: Why don’t you go back to reading?

Mr. Whelan: Perhaps I will refer to a letter which I was reading earlier. It reads:

Dear Mr. Whelan:

Thank you for the strength you bring to the cabinet and the government of our great country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kempling: You wrote it yourself.

Mr. Whelan: It is a very short letter. It continues:

I sincerely pray that you may overflow with God’s wisdom and strength as you continue to wholeheartedly serve Canadians.

It is from a man way out in Vancouver, British Columbia. I could read thousands of letters like it, if hon. members opposite want me to.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: I receive many good letters about what I am doing and what the government is doing in Canada. I will read from another one. This is from Walter E. Kroeker in Manitoba. He wrote:

Let me assure you that there was a full appreciation of your efforts in Aroostook County. It would have warmed your heart to imagine all these growers as your constituents!

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you know where that county is. It is in potato country not very far from your constituency. They were saying what a great job I was doing on behalf of Canadian potato growers, and that it was making it impossible for the United States to compete with potato growers in Canada. That huge, big country could not compete with Canada because of what we have done for potato growers. He ends up his letter, Walter does—and he is an old friend of mine but of a different political faith, I believe—by saying:

I would respectfully urge that there be no new programs for potato growers, and especially, no stabilization programs. Not included in this recommendation are assistance efforts directed toward offshore exports only, such as Potatoes Canada and, when operational, Canagrex.

That is what Walter wants. Walter is a former president of the Canadian Horticultural Council of Canada. He is a very successful entrepreneur in potato production and in other kinds of agricultural production in the province of Manitoba. He is very active in the broadcasting field, the seed production field, etc. He is one of the most knowledgeable men in all of Manitoba. I am sure the hon. member who led off this discussion would virtually agree with that. That is the kind of letter Walter wrote me. I say, “Wonderful”, thank you, Walter”. He has a member who sits right across from me who is his brother-in-law.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan: When the hon. member talks about the United States, I am sure he is aware of that great big country and its great big trading and enterprising system. They have the amended law 480 to give them tremendous powers to dump their products.

The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) has asked several questions in the House about what we will do if the United States Secretary of Agriculture uses law 480 and the powers which he has. He is worried about it, and he has every reason to be worried about the powers which they have under law 480. They can buy and sell. They can establish facilities in other countries for processing of any product they want. They can do that in their great free-enterprise system in the United States.

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What have they done with the Webb-Pomerene bill? United States legislators voted in 1916 giving power to establish a cartel to determine price. They enacted the law, which has never been used since 1916, but the government of the United States of America saw fit to put it into practice now and to give them a cartel over poultry.