

*Government Orders*

Back in July of 1985, the headlines of the *London Free Press* stated "Ottawa Kisses Off The Family Farm". I had hoped they were wrong because I am a farmer at heart. My son is a farmer. However, when we look at events since then we realize that they were correct. We have seen a grape industry ravaged. A healthy tobacco industry, with the highest quality and the lowest chemical content of any in the world, has been partially destroyed. The two-price wheat system was discontinued in spite of a 1986 recommendation of \$10 per bushel for wheat consumed domestically.

We were assured the marketing boards were not on the bargaining table at the free trade negotiations, yet these boards, particularly in the poultry sector, were gutted. Look at what was done with chicken, for example. There are 13 different types of further processed chicken that are no longer classified to be chicken, nine different types of turkey which are not considered to be turkeys that will be allowed into Canada through the Free Trade Agreement and will enter without restriction. The Canadian people and the Canadian farmers now realize who are the real turkeys, the ones who negotiated this agreement. This systematic dismantling of our Canadian farm programs is destroying the Canadian family farm, not by a direct frontal attack but by a series of attacks on the superstructures of the industry. Apparently the government seems to think that agriculture is just another big business. It seems to think if you can produce iron ore cheaper in South America, we can do the same with foods.

The farmers of this nation will never accept the living conditions of those in the Third World countries. They demand better, and if we are expected to compete against the multinational companies that control the world's grain trade we must continue our programs that have made Canadian farmers among the most efficient in the world, who produce the highest quality grains in the world and do it through the marketing systems that we have in place and programs like those that are being gutted here today.

I have to ask the government why it did not raise this hidden agenda four years ago instead of the piece-by-piece dismantling that we have been witnessing since that time. Let us take the Farm Credit Corporation, for example. The 1988-89 corporate plan was tabled late,

late in the evening just before we adjourned for Christmas. Of course when we look back, we realize it had to be done after the election, but not seven months late.

Then, of course, the annual report of the Farm Credit Corporation for 1988-89 was due in early June and tabled late on the night we adjourned June 27.

Then we had the cabinet directive to the Farm Credit Corporation of July 1988 that was not tabled even though by law it should have been tabled within the next 15 sitting days of Parliament. The government is treating the members of Parliament like mushrooms that you keep in the dark and feed on a special diet. If the government intends to phase out the Farm Credit Corporation, it should tell us and tell the farmers of Canada because we have to know. Please stop the discrimination of requiring farmers in some provinces to sign covenants that are illegal in other provinces and are not being treated equally.

There are provisions under section 11(1)(e) of the Farm Credit Corporation Act to make compositions, schemes of arrangement, re-writing of mortgages, etc., but it was never the intent of the legislators that we should go so far as to force these people to sign away their future, their heart and their souls. I call on the government to stop these practices, to accept the responsibility and realize that Canadian agriculture cannot be run like big corporations. When one examines some of the actions of the Farm Credit Corporation and looks at some of the situations, one has to realize that at this time it is as much a collection agency as it is a lending agency.

I want to commend the representatives of the four churches for their involvement a week ago yesterday on behalf of Canadian farm families.

This government is slowly but surely dismantling the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board and the Ontario Wheat Growers Marketing Board. When the levels of subsidy are at an equal level there must be free movement of grain according to the free trade deal. This means that probably by late next year we will see cheaper and lower quality United States grains—I am referring here to wheat and barley—coming into Canada and undermining our price structures and quality standards. In fact, the end users certificates that will accompany this grain will not even show the quality or grade of product.