

*Private Members' Business*

Europe. We go right in there and they have to meet our standards. In most cases I suspect our standards are far higher than in those countries. Consequently, we have the right to restrict product coming from those particular areas.

Let me talk about the violations. The law has been strengthened in terms of the penalty. It is interesting to note that anyone who abuses Canada's law with respect to the issues we have talked about face a penalty which has gone from \$2,000, an insignificant amount, to \$100,000, which strengthens the fact that we mean business. Who knows, maybe that is not high enough yet. But it is certainly a tremendous improvement over what we have had in the past.

• (1350 )

The CAP act also gives us the authority to regulate consignment sales of fresh fruit and vegetables. As I have said, the CAP act is addressing the food safety concerns of Canadians. At the same time it is helping the country's fruit and vegetable industry. Because we do have high standards and because Canadians do want quality products, Canadian standards are the ones we use with respect to what we import.

As the hon. member knows, these producers are vulnerable to surplus products sold on consignment. Without controls on consignment selling, produce can be imported without firm purchase agreements and spoiled products can enter the market.

The controls that we have put into place are there to assure Canadian consumers that this government has acted in the best interests of safety and health standards. Clearly, we have to be vigilant at all times because we are a large importer of fruit and vegetables due to our climatic conditions.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth)):** I thank the hon. member for Portage—Interlake, who came in just under time. To take us to the top of the clock I recognize the hon. member for Red Deer.

**Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I find it very ironic that the House is debating amendments to the bill before us. As was mentioned by the hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands, the justice committee is also considering the fruit, vegetables and honey act. It was referred by this House to that committee in February.

The committee is not trying to amend it. It is trying to repeal it.

The bill before us today is not necessary. As was mentioned earlier, this debate is not exactly gripping television drama. Given the problems faced by our country these days, we should be putting our time to a lot more productive use.

The fact is that the amendments found in this bill are redundant. They are already covered in the Canada Agricultural Products Act. That is why proposals have been made to repeal the Fruit, Vegetables and Honey Act through the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Program.

The Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Program was established about 15 years ago in 1975. Since then five acts have been enacted.

This program permits minor amendments to be made to a number of federal statutes without having to wait for the particular statutes to be opened up for more substantial changes. This program is a means of correcting anomalies, inconsistencies, archaisms and errors in federal statutes. Enactments that have expired, lapsed or ceased to have effect can also be repealed through the program.

Anyone may propose amendments for possible inclusion in a set of proposals. However, most of the current proposals come from government departments or agencies.

The legislation section of the Department of Justice is responsible for receiving and reviewing proposals. As well, it prepared a document entitled "Proposals to Correct Certain Anomalies, Inconsistencies, Archaisms and Errors in the Statutes of Canada" to deal with other matters of a non-controversial and uncomplicated nature therein and to repeal certain provisions thereof that have expired or lapsed or otherwise ceased to have effect.

This document is tabled by the Minister of Justice in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General. The proposals are also tabled in the Senate and referred to its Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Consideration of the proposals by these committees has always been thorough and conducted on a non-partisan basis. I would like to emphasize that if any member