

*Canagrex*

Agriculture. He is promoting the Bill, and has been very flexible in committee on this Bill—

**Mr. Huntington:** Forgive him, Father, for he knows not what he does.

**Mr. Blais:**—in order to accommodate a great deal of the criticism which has been brought to our attention by Members of the Opposition. I personally feel that the Minister of Agriculture, who has held this portfolio for a number of years, has really been one of the most progressive Members of the Government. I am very pleased to be able to second him in the efforts he is making relating to this particular legislation.

It is not surprising that such a Bill has a hard time getting through the House. We have heard the howls from the Members of the Opposition. They seem to forget that Canada is an exporting country and that it is one of the four countries of the world which are exporters in agricultural products. As a matter of interest, last year our exports were over \$4 billion to the good. We had a net export surplus of over \$4.6 billion.

**Mr. Huntington:** Tell us about finished goods.

**Mr. Blais:** One of the major agents in securing that export is the Canadian Wheat Board. Anyone who attempts to tell me that the Canadian Wheat Board is somehow a creation of the private sector evidently does not know—

**Mr. Thacker:** Point of order.

**Mr. Blais:**—of what he speaks and, indeed, Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. The Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Thacker:** In terms of procedure, the Hon. Member should know that the U.S. increased its exports by 500 per cent, and the Canadian Wheat Board by 50 per cent in the same comparable period. The United States does not have Crown corporations.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. That is debate.

**Mr. Malone:** It sure is.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** The Minister has the floor.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, it has been recognized in the International Wheat Market that the Canadian Wheat Board is the most efficient and most competent wheat agency in the market at this particular time.

**Mr. Whelan:** In the world.

**Mr. Blais:** No one disputes that fact.

**Mr. Huntington:** It's the only one.

**Mr. Blais:** As a result of the presence of the Canadian Wheat Board, wheat farmers in western Canada have been able to bank upon their assets, knowing full well that they have

one of the best marketing agencies involved in the marketplace trying to sell their product, and it has been sold quite effectively.

**Mr. Neil:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the fact that the Wheat Board makes use of the private sector to carry out most of its sales.

**Mr. Huntington:** All of its sales in the private sector.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what Canagrex will be doing, in any event.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blais:** I would also point out that there is another outfit called the Canadian Dairy Commission—

**Mr. Huntington:** Yes, it's under criminal investigation.

**Mr. Blais:**—which, again, is in the international marketplace liquidating some of the surpluses which are generated as a result of the productivity of the Canadian farmer—

**Mr. Huntington:** Why is the RCMP in there, looking at it?

**Mr. Blais:**—especially the milk farmer. As a result of its aggressive marketing, it has been able to liquidate large surpluses of powdered milk—and my friend, the Minister of Agriculture, will be able to support me in that—and other industrial milk products.

**Mr. Huntington:** You've picked the wrong corporation.

**Mr. Blais:** In effect, it has been very aggressive in doing that, and it has liquidated those surpluses, which the Europeans have had greater difficulty in doing, and which, indeed, the Americans as well have had greater difficulty in doing.

**Mr. Thacker:** Mr. Speaker, the CDC is so aggressive that it has had to have an Auditor General's audit, and it is being investigated by the RCMP. That's a great corporation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. That is definitely an abuse of the invocation of the point of order.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** The Minister has been abusing it. Tell the truth.

**Mr. Huntington:** What motion are you speaking to?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** May we have some order, please? The best discipline is self-discipline. I would invite Hon. Members to abide by the rules and traditions of the House.

**Mr. Malone:** Ask Whelan to resign.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I trust that the interventions by Members of the Opposition will not be taken from my allotted time. I know that I am making some telling points because they are jumping up like jackrabbits.