

Canagrex Dissolution Act

place. Again I reiterate that it should be strengthened; I am not suggesting for a minute that it should not be. All we have to do is to look at the record of the organization, and I would say that it was rather dismal.

While I am on my feet, I want to say that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) has done more for agriculture in one short year, even though the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre seemed to take some exception to it. One item which he held up for ridicule was the tripartite meat stabilization program. He said that the authority was there and all it took was for the Minister to carry through with it. I happen to have been involved for the last 15 years from the point of view of the producer sector in trying to get a tripartite red meat stabilization program into effect, and I know that nothing happened until this Minister managed to get Bill C-25 through the House in June. That carries back 15 years.

While dealing with the red meat sector, I should like to refer to the fact that an Hon. Member opposite held up our meat inspection system to some ridicule, particularly under the changes which were put in place. We have the finest meat inspection system in the world, and that is barring none. Even with the changes which have been put in place, no other country is allowed to ship red meat across borders in volumes comparable with that of Canada, and that is almost entirely due to our inspection system, which is held in the highest esteem in most exporting countries.

At this point I will sit down and allow Members opposite to question me on what I have said.

Mr. Althouse: Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Member care to offer his opinion as to why the Minister has failed to carry out the letter of the law? Why has the Minister failed to table in the House the final report of Canagrex within 15 days, so that it could be automatically sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture for us to find out what happened in those last few months and in fact look at the record, which is what he said we should be doing?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Fraleigh) on a short answer, please.

Mr. Fraleigh: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to answer for the Minister. The Minister is quite capable of answering for himself. I would suggest that the Hon. Member put that question to him in the House this afternoon.

I have indicated my position. If the Hon. Member has questions to put to me on what I said, I am quite prepared to debate it with him. However, as far as a question which only the Minister could answer is concerned, I fail to see why the Hon. Member would direct it to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m., the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[English]

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED**IMPACT OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACK**

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter that is of the utmost importance to the people of Canada. In the "Budget of Disaster" that was presented by the Progressive Conservatives last May 23, the Government announced its intention to cut the heart and soul out of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited by reducing the research and development budget by 50 per cent over five years. This action will result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to AECL, to the laboratories at Chalk River, and to the Town of Deep River.

Contrary to what the Government says, these cuts will seriously damage the health and safety research programs, programs that have made great contributions in the battle against cancer in our country.

In order to lessen the impact of this ill-advised action, I sought, on August 1 last, a meeting with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney). More than three months have passed and the Minister has not had the courtesy to reply to my request, or even to direct her staff to take this matter seriously by discussing possible dates for a meeting.

I want to tell the Minister that this is a matter that the people of Canada take very seriously and we will not tolerate the arrogant attitude of the Government.

An Hon. Member: Shame on the Tories.

Mr. Hopkins: The people who are affected by the cuts in the budget of AECL deserve a hearing with the Minister: the business community, labour, and the professionals. To continue to ignore them is an insult to Canadians and, indeed, to this Parliament.

* * *

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**CANCELLATION OF PENSIONERS' RAIL PASSES—CENTENNIAL OF "LAST SPIKE" CEREMONY**

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, today is the one hundredth anniversary of the driving of the last spike and the beginning of transcontinental rail history in this great country of ours.

I come from a town, Transcona, whose very name is a combination of "Transcontinental" and "Lord Strathcona", the man who drove the last spike.