

Canagrex

Mr. Boudria: Worst of all, he never even allowed the agency to work. Yet I am not convinced that he, although it is his Bill, was in favour of abolishing Canagrex.

Mr. Foster: Certainly was not.

Mr. Boudria: Because I remember speeches he made in this House before the 1984 election when he liked the idea in the first place.

Mr. Horner: No one liked it.

Mr. Boudria: The Member from the agricultural riding of Mississauga North says no one liked it. I invite him to read *Hansard*. It is excellent material and he should try reading some of the speeches of the now Minister of Agriculture in his days in opposition.

I think the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), when he delivered his November 8, 1984, economic statement, chose randomly to abolish a number of things and left his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, to carry the can. That is when he cancelled a number of agricultural research projects, Canagrex, and a whole list of other good measures which the Minister had previously supported. The Minister of Agriculture was forced to carry the can, but he should not. He should not be here to apologize for the Minister of Finance. He should let him make his own mistakes. He should tell the Minister of Finance to introduce his own dissolution Bills. The Minister of Agriculture should have told the Minister of Finance that he would not put up with this, that the Minister must reinstate Canagrex or he would move back to the back benches and do his job there for the farmers of Canada. That is what he should have done. But instead he took the easy, partisan role. He sat in his place and defended actions which he did not believe in.

● (1240)

As I said before, I believe that this move is wrong, particularly at this time when there are international pressures on our agricultural commodities. Let us reinstate Canagrex, give it back personnel and make it work for the benefit of Canadian farmers.

Mr. Redway: Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that he is the fifth Member from his Party to speak on this legislation. It has been made quite clear to us in this House that the Hon. Member and his Party oppose the legislation to wind up Canagrex. Is the Hon. Member aware that by continuing to put up speakers on this Bill he is delaying the opportunity of the House to deal with another very important piece of legislation relating to farmers, that is Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act which will provide Canadian farmers with more money now when there is such great concern for Canadian farmers?

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Redway: The Hon. Member indicated that he supports Canadian agriculture. Would it not make a lot of sense for him

and his Party to wind up their discussion on this Bill and to move quickly to Bill C-12 in order to show that the Hon. Member and the Liberal Party support the provision of more money for farmers at this critical time in the life of Canadian agriculture?

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, that is an excellent question. It is not very well thought out, but it is excellent nevertheless—probably by accident. I have consulted with my colleague, the official critic, and we are perfectly willing to give unanimous consent to move to the other Bill. We could give it passage within 15 or 20 minutes and then revert to the Canagrex Bill, if that is the wish of Members across the way. I am sure we could get consent of all Parties in order to do that.

Mr. Wise: You had better check with your House Leader if you have one today.

Mr. Boudria: I thank the Hon. Member from the vastly rural riding of York East for bringing this to my attention.

With regard to the fact that I am the fifth speaker on this issue, I have no moral lessons to take from Tories who delayed this House for one month for no reason other than to get Dalton Camp to write better speeches for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). The only reason these Bills are taking longer to deal with is that the Government failed so miserably to bring the House back at the proper time. I am the deputy critic on agriculture for my Party. I represent 2,500 farmers and I am going to speak for them in this House, whether or not the Member for York East (Mr. Redway) or anyone else likes it.

Mr. Malone: Well, I sure don't like it.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I apologize to the Member for coming in a few minutes late. I missed part of his speech.

Mr. Wise: You're lucky, Dave.

Mr. Mayer: What a shame that was.

Mr. Orlikow: Could the Member help me by indicating which agricultural organizations support his proposal?

Mr. Boudria: That is an excellent question, Madam Speaker. I regret that he was not able, by his own admission, to listen to my entire speech. I could speak longer with the unanimous consent of the House.

I will review for the Member the organizations which had offered their support for the original Bill and those which had offered their support on the condition that slight modifications be made. The Member will understand that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is an umbrella group which represents 200,000 producers. It had offered its support on behalf of the agencies and organizations it represents. Other organizations which offered their total support to this Bill are the Eastern Canada Potato Producers Council, the New Brunswick Potato Agency, the National Farmers Union, the *Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec*, the Ontario Bean