

that we will have a federal hauling subsidy. Third, will the minister on our behalf put in a word to the Minister of Transport on the need of an off-line concept—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I am unable to hear the hon. member for Peace River. There may be other members who would like to hear him. Could we have a little co-operation in that regard?

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is whether the minister will give us some indication as to his attitude concerning research and development and the possibility of setting up this independent commission which will be based on federal, provincial and industrial input.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan: I would say to the hon. member for Peace River, and it may come as a surprise, that I have visited his area several times and am very much aware of it. One of the staff in my department owns land in that constituency. I just want to assure him that we have knowledge of his constituency. I will work very closely with the Minister of Transport on the problems presented by the hon. member. If he will put them in writing, we will look into them and he and I can discuss them in a much better fashion than we are doing here in the committee this evening. I am very familiar with the research on bees at Beaver Lodge. We also have a new little busy bee called the Megachile Rotundata. It is a pollinating bee we have developed and we are exporting it all over the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2340)

Mr. Whelan: I just want to say to the hon. member for Assiniboia who made the remarks about the agriculture program that those magic people with the former minister of agriculture and those transport programs they developed—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster on a point of order.

Mr. McKnight: I believe the time has expired for both the hon. member for Athabasca and the Minister of Agriculture.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: I gave the hon. minister additional time because I had interrupted the hon. member for Peace River. I noted at that time it was the hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster himself who suggested my own interruption ought not to count against the member's time. I will allow the minister half a minute to finish.

Mr. Whelan: The hon. member talked about Saskatchewan. He talked about the amazing transport policies the former minister of transport put forth and we know that is a lot of malarkey. The hon. member talks about land ownership, the purchase of land in Saskatchewan and the number of acres

Supply

purchased. It may be they are watching that great free enterprise to the west of them which owns over 50 per cent of all the land in the province of Alberta.

An hon. Member: Don't mislead the House.

Mr. Whelan: They may be getting some ideas from them at the present time.

Mr. Mackasey: I will be extremely brief because I want to hear the Minister of Agriculture wind up his estimates. I hope the minister will respond to my question at length. As a preamble to my question I want to thank the minister on behalf of the fruit growers of the Niagara Peninsula. To my pleasant surprise when I arrived in the county of Lincoln I found that the farm groups and the farmers unanimously felt the present Minister of Agriculture was the best friend they have had in many years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mackasey: I also learned from those same Lincoln farmers that without the initiative of the Minister of Agriculture several years ago in buying up fruit there would not have been a Canadian brandy industry in this country. I hope the minister would explain to the House, to myself, to the people of Lincoln and to the Canadian brandy industry some of the initiatives and some of the ideas he has for the development of that brandy industry in the next few years?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan: There has been a lot of pessimism put forward about what is going to happen to the brandy industry and the grape growing industry in Canada. I find this very hard to accept, especially when I see the expansion of the wine industry and the grape growing industry in Ontario and also in British Columbia. We are doing research on new varieties of grapes never done before. Under the new crop development fund we have provided the grape growers with funds to do research on their own concerning new varieties of grapes. In the area where I live two new wineries are being established. In the most southerly part of Canada one group has bought 1,200 acres of land to grow grapes which will produce wine on Pelee Island out in the middle of Lake Erie.

● (2345)

Another new winery is being established in the community of Harrow in Colchester South, which is in the constituency of my colleague, the hon. member for Kent-Essex. Hon. members opposite predict gloom and doom for the wine industry, but that is not what the people in the industry are saying. They are saying that this government and this minister care about what they are doing. We are not finished making representations with respect to the brandy industry. That is an industry we want to see stay alive, and we are determined that it will. We fulfilled some of the promises we made about that industry, and we intend to fulfil them all, as far as I am concerned. Canada is a community made up of many different peoples