

majority of Canadian farmers wanted their marketing system extended.

On January 25, the Canadian Export Association presented a brief to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture. They believed that the Canagrex Bill should not be proceeded with. In a letter to MPs, endorsed by thirty-one groups including farm, business and export groups and the governments of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, Export Association President T.M. Burns said that the Canagrex Bill was proceeding despite overwhelming evidence that many farming and other interested groups have opposed the establishment of Canagrex as "redundant, inappropriate and misdirected." He suggested that "attention should be focussed on areas of major importance — export financing, credit guarantees, market intelligence and most importantly, research and development. Advances in these areas could be made through existing government mechanisms without creating another Crown corporation — a saving of scarce government resources."

Support for the Canagrex bill was also registered in January. A Canadian Press story (January 10) said that Agriculture Minister Whelan had the support of both national farm groups, the Alberta and Saskatchewan Wheat Pools and most groups in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. In the House of Commons January 25 George Henderson (Lib, Egmont) outlined the outstanding support for the Bill shown in his province of Prince Edward Island. "It is my sincere hope that the Members of this House will show their support of the agricultural industry on PEI through strong support of Bill C-85 when it again returns to this House," he said.

Dollar

The Canadian dollar was worth 80.74 cents (US) on December 1. It declined and rose slightly in December, and ended the year "on a strong note," closing at 81.38 cents on December 31. By January 13 it had increased to 81.90 cents. Later in January it declined and at the end of the month it closed at 80.86 cents (*Globe and Mail* reports).

HUMAN RIGHTS

Parliamentary Support

On December 10, the thirty-fourth anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Members of Parliament gave unanimous consent to a motion, introduced by NDP external affairs critic Pauline Jewett, that the House "express its appreciation of and support for the important work being done by the UN Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, and the Helsinki monitoring groups and urge all nations to adhere to the spirit and the substance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights." Following this, MPs from all three political parties rose in the House of Commons and spoke briefly about the importance of Canada's commitment to human rights. Flora MacDonald (PC, Kingston and the Islands) endorsed a recent recommendation that a Parliamentary Association on Human Rights be established.

This had been a recommendation of the House of

Commons Sub-Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean. It was proposed that a Canadian Parliamentary Human Rights Association could serve as a forum for discussion and promotion of international human rights. On January 24, Stanley Hudecki (Lib., Hamilton West) urged the House and the government to seriously consider the formation of such an association as a sub-committee of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, with additional researchers and funding to assist the proposed sub-committee. (For Human Rights Policy, see BILATERAL — PAKISTAN; POLICY — FOREIGN — Asia: Prime Minister's Trip.)

IMMIGRATION

Report on Illegal Immigrants

A study of illegal immigrants in Canada conducted by the Canada employment and Immigration Advisory Council was released on December 7. The Advisory Council found that illegal immigration into Canada is a "major problem." It was unable to arrive at an exact figure regarding the number of illegal immigrants in Canada, but said that it believed "that the number 200,000, often used as an estimate, is conservative." Among other things, a press release from the Council proposed that to deal with the problem:

Illegals presently in Canada should be given legal resident status after a phased, six-year probationary program administered by the government with the help of non-governmental community agencies. The Council feels that such measures would be the most realistic and humane way to deal with illegal aliens in Canada. However, the Council has made a clear distinction between this program and an unconditional amnesty, which it feels is ineffective and counter productive.

The government's position was questioned in the House of Commons December 21. D.M. Collenette (Lib., York East) asked Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy, "In view of the concern which this recommendation has generated in the country, especially in Metropolitan Toronto, can he assure the House that the government will not accept this recommendation?" Mr. Axworthy responded that he had appointed a special adviser who would consult various groups and report back to him in April. The Minister said that it was simply a recommendation, and the government had no plans for amnesty.

AID

CIDA Programs

Aid programs, with funds being provided for by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), were announced in December and January. These commitments included \$450,000 to aid Ugandan refugees in Rwanda (CIDA press release, December 7), \$60,000 to aid