

*Canagrex*

lot, he seems to be at least paying attention to my speech. The U.S. Farm Bill will affect everything from grain to milk to meat products, honey, and a variety of other commodities which will now be subsidized by the U.S. Government to a large and significant extent. The purpose is to displace foreign sales and replace them with U.S. sales. Some \$70 billion U.S. will be injected into support programs to compete against Canadian products and others.

What are we doing as a country, as a Parliament, to ensure that we do not lose those sales? We are abolishing whatever small measures we have to help our agricultural industry. Some Tories across the way laugh at that. They are so partisan. Why can they not think for a minute about the agricultural community that sent them here? I guess they will have to reconcile that later, if not with their consciences at least with their voters. The agricultural community is not going to like this one bit.

**Mr. Malone:** I will take you on in any agricultural community anywhere in Canada.

**Mr. Boudria:** The agricultural community of my riding is very upset with this Government, and rightfully so.

**Mr. Malone:** Look at their Member.

**Mr. Boudria:** The agricultural community right across this country is displeased with the way this Conservative Government has failed to deliver on its promises.

**Mr. Malone:** What happened in Saskatchewan last night?

**Mr. Boudria:** I see the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) in the House. I will remind him that he said on February 4, 1985, in this House, as recorded in *Hansard* at p. 1963:

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that this Government will very aggressively follow the export market for agricultural commodities.

**Mr. Wise:** And we have.

**Mr. Boudria:** He continued:

Our Department has already entered into negotiations—

**Mr. Wise:** And we did.

**Mr. Boudria:**

—and had discussions and that role will be carried on more effectively—

**Mr. Wise:** And the results are showing.

**Mr. Boudria:**

—and more successfully with the Export Development Corporation properly financed.

**Mr. Wise:** We have done that. We have made those changes.

**Mr. Boudria:** I ask the Minister what happened to that commitment?

**Mr. Wise:** It is being fulfilled.

**Mr. Boudria:** What happened to that commitment?

**Mr. Wise:** Look at the facts.

**Mr. Boudria:** The Minister of Agriculture made those statements in this House on February 4, 1985, and in December of the same year the U.S. Farm Bill was passed with hardly any lobbying by Canadian authorities to ensure that it would not pass.

**Mr. Wise:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Boudria:** I was in Washington; I spent three days looking at the U.S. Farm Bill.

**Mr. Wise:** Why did you not stay home? That is your problem.

**Mr. Boudria:** I asked the people in Washington what kind of lobbying—

**Mr. Wise:** They told me not to send you down again.

**Mr. Boudria:** —did the Government of Canada undertake in Washington to ensure that the U.S. Farm Bill would not pass? What was the name of the lobbying firm that was hired? After all, Canadians hired Michael Deaver for some other lobbying. I understand he lobbied very well but he was a rather controversial and expensive guy to have around.

**Mr. Orlikow:** They paid him pretty well.

**Mr. Foster:** Some \$100,000.

**Mr. Boudria:** For acid rain we had Michael Deaver. We have hired lobbyists in the past for other things. Yet, when it came time to lobby for Canadian farmers what happened? I asked our embassy in Washington who was the lobbyist, how much time was spent and how much money was paid? Do you know what they said? None, no lobbyist was hired. We have one person working in agriculture in Washington and she did some lobbying on her own. That is what we had to offer to Canadian farmers concerning a Bill involving \$70 billion U.S. aimed directly at stealing our customers. We failed miserably, and what are we going to do now? We are going to compound the failure by abolishing our national agency—

**Mr. Wise:** No, we are just trying to eliminate one of your many failures.

**Mr. Boudria:** —to provide the marketing. The Minister calls Canagrex a failure. That agency was supported by all the groups I mentioned, and I can repeat the list for the Minister's benefit, yet he calls it a failure. He has questioned the support of the agricultural community which I have just read for you, Madam Speaker. In so doing he is taking partisan shots, not at me but at all those agricultural organizations who wanted a Canagrex type of organization.

**Mr. Malone:** Have the courage to read the whole list.