

Canagrex

Mr. Malone: So what? What does that mean? What is your conclusion?

Mr. Bossy: Let me quote what the then Minister of Agriculture said in 1979. I am quoting from the *London Free Press*. The article said that the new agricultural Minister, John Wise, is ready to go "full steam ahead" on policies. This newspaper report states:

He will implement, with possible changes, the Agricultural Export Corp. announced by the Liberal cabinet during the election campaign as a tool to sell Canadian food abroad.

Further on in this newspaper report, we find this:

Concerning the Agricultural Export Corp., which would have powers similar to those of the Canadian Wheat Board, Wise said he would prefer it to be part of his ministry, but after talking with ministry officials he thinks that may be impossible.

It may well be that because of the business nature of that structure, it may be necessary to have a crown corporation. I won't quibble over that.

That is what he said.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: He did not say he would give them power. Read the whole story. He was not going to confiscate the farms.

Mr. Bossy: In a further article that appeared on June 6, 1979, and Hon. Members must read the entire article, there is a picture of the then Minister with the headline "More agricultural exports planned". It is stated in the article:

Wise has said one tool that will be used to increase exports is the recently announced Agricultural Export Corp., which will sell Canadian foodstuffs abroad.

Mr. Taylor: Without confiscation of farms.

Mr. Bossy: I have another article here where it is reported that the Agriculture Minister stated:

The Progressive Conservative party campaigned on the pledge to concentrate on expanding markets for Canadian agricultural products and Wise says he wants to act quickly to complete efforts started by former minister Eugene Whelan to establish an export marketing body for agriculture.

An Hon. Member: Very wise man. There is one intelligent Member on the other side.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: Without confiscation. Why do you not tell the whole story? Take out confiscation.

Mr. Bossy: I believe farmers, especially in the area of Ontario that I happen to represent, have asked me to convey this message to the House, that that corporation must become part of our trust to help agriculture and the farmer and not necessarily just the exporters of this country, which seems to be the support the Opposition wants to give strictly in that area.

Members of the Committee heard and read briefs from most groups within the Canadian agri-food system, and the vast majority expressed their support for Canagrex. I am going back to what we heard in Committee.

Mr. Taylor: You have gone back a long way.

Mr. Bossy: The Committee recommended changes, and as the legislation now stands Canagrex can only get involved in exports in co-operation or jointly with private trade or when it is acting as an agent of the Crown when dealing in state to state contracts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that time allocation was put on this Bill and in view of the ruling by the Acting Speaker on July 29, 1982, we on this side would like to put the argument that Motion No. 2 should quite properly be debated and voted upon because the Acting Speaker at that time indicated that subsequent argument could be put. We are prepared to do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair faces a certain difficulty at this point. We are debating a group of motions which have been grouped for debate. They do not include Motion No. 2. After disposing of them there might be a very brief period of time before the limit of debate at 5:45 p.m. takes over.

If it is the wish of the House, the Chair will put the question on Motion No. 6 which we are debating now. However, there appear to be other Hon. Members rising.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that we are finished with that first grouping of Bills and we are prepared to go on to Motion No. 2.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: From the Chair's point of view as long as Hon. Members are rising, it is very difficult to do other than to recognize them. In this case, the Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight).

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, if there was unanimous consent among all colleagues in the House to move along, some 12 amendments have been placed. We think under closure it would only be in the style of the magnanimity of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) that we could move on to other Bills.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

The Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members opposite realize that the Hon. Member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) would have been here to present this motion on behalf of the livestock industry, but unfortunately his wife passed away today and he has had to rush away. We want very much, on behalf of the Hon. Member for Medicine Hat who has represented that industry for many, many years, to put this motion before the House so that it can be properly voted upon as the Bill is voted on this afternoon. I am asking for unanimous consent for that purpose.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!