

Mr. Gustafson: Probably nothing has ever happened in this House that could have more impact on the control of food in Canada. This is a country where we have taken food for granted because it has been abundant, and we should be thankful for it. But one way to assure that we will not have that abundance is to give the Government control of our food industry in Canada, a state-controlled Crown corporation—

Mr. Whelan: You are talking about Alberta now.

Mr. Gustafson: This is what the Auditor General of Canada warns against; more Crown corporations that will bring in Government control and lose control for the producers of this country.

I want to go on record as being a Member of Parliament who stood in this House and said to this House and the Members on the other side, the Liberal Members, and to the people of Canada, that I am a Member who stands up for producer control, not Government control, not state control.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gustafson: I have numbers of letters whose names are not mentioned in this previous list. Here I have the letter from Landis Seed Canada Limited. The letter was addressed to myself, "Mr. Gustafson, Member of Parliament, House of Commons":

We are writing to you to express our serious concern with Government's intention to form Canagrex. We see this as an unwarranted intrusion upon the private sector by Government.

Another letter is protesting this direction. I also have an article from the *Toronto Sun*:

—Bill C-85. This Bill is a monstrous equivalent to the National Energy Program—which gave us higher gasoline prices, more taxes and a bigger national debt—only this time it is the nation's food resources that Trudeau wishes to nationalize.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gustafson: I hear the NDP groaning. It was very interesting to note, as with the national energy policy, that the NDP were the first to rise and support this Government-state Crown corporation that will be invented here to take control of the food industry. The Canadian people should note this carefully. In the Province of Saskatchewan there is a great deal of concern about Crown corporations and the effect they are having upon that Province.

• (1650)

I can see why the NDP are so concerned. They like Crown corporations control. They like state control, Government takeovers and these types of moves. The Conservative Party wants to go on record as opposing the direction being taken by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and his tactic of using closure to accomplish this.

In yet another letter condemning the type of action being taken, the Canadian Seed Association at its meeting in Pointe au Pic, Quebec, on July 7, 1982 passed the following resolution:

That the general assembly of Canadian Seed Association express its opposition to the creation of yet another state trading corporation.

They expressed their indignation. They are opposed to the Minister of Agriculture forming, under closure in this House, another state trading corporation or Crown corporation.

The more important factor to be addressed is food. The farmers of Canada have a good record of production. That record of production is recognized world-wide. However, the minute a Government moves to take control of the production with directions that come from the Government halls, there is a decline. The Minister knows of other areas in the world that are equivalent to North America, but they cannot even feed themselves.

The record shows that as Governments get involved in the affairs of producers, the producers lose control; the production is moved to the point where they cannot produce the requirements for their own country. That has been proven time and again. The Minister sits and shakes his head, after bringing in closure on the Canagrex Bill that will harness the producers of Canada, making them non-productive.

I see that my time is up. I am sorry because much more could be said on this subject. I again warn the Minister of Agriculture against this move of bringing in closure on a Bill that the farmers of Canada do not accept and I put that on the record here today.

Mr. Maurice Bossy (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to address this motion. I want to mention a few justifications for bringing in closure—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Finally the truth comes out.

Mr. Bossy: —or time allocation. The Opposition call it closure. I must say that it is actually time allocation. I will clear that up.

The final passage of this important piece of legislation is long overdue. Long overdue is the creation of an organization to assist and expand the Canadian agri-food market. Long overdue is the passage of Bill C-84 through this House and into the other House. Long overdue is Canagrex becoming a reality.

I remember first hearing of a federal corporation such as Canagrex in the early 1970s. I was a cash crop farmer at that time. I wish to bring to the attention of the House a few words of the former Minister of Agriculture for whom I have tremendous respect. When he first became Minister of Agriculture in 1979, one of his first statements to the press was:

The Progressive Conservative Party campaigned on a pledge to concentrate on expanding markets for Canadian agricultural products.

The Hon. Member said that he, and I quote:

—wants to act quickly to complete efforts started by former minister Eugene Whelan to establish an export marketing body for agriculture.