

Canagrex

with producer groups. The organization had the authority and power to provide insurance arrangements in working with 150 different countries. Obviously, such arrangements vary from country to country, and the Minister talks about the Department of Agriculture doing this. He does not know the capacity in the Department for making those types of insurance arrangements. Canagrex would have been able to provide assistance for various commodities in terms of storage arrangements, market development and promotion in other countries.

Canagrex had worked with many producer groups. Often the work was parallel type work, but it was not always co-ordinated. For instance, we heard tell of various provincial pork marketing boards being in place in various countries at the same time. Canagrex would have been able to assist in the co-ordination of that type of activity. It would certainly have been of great assistance to agriculture commodities in smaller volumes.

Although we are a free enterprise society and believe it is the best and most successful way to make an economy operate, much of the world is controlled by communist governments or other non-democratic forms of government which want to deal state-to-state. Canagrex would have given us an opportunity to have a Crown corporation act on behalf of the state in dealing state-to-state. This certainly takes place now in terms of the Canadian Wheat Board. It is also in place in terms of the Canadian Dairy Commission. However, there are dozens and dozens of other commodities for which there are not big national and international agencies to co-ordinate sales. That is what Canagrex would have been able to do. There is an endless list of items in terms of grain, corn and other commodities in that range, as well as in poultry, livestock, red meat, some dairy items and horticultural products in which there would have been an opportunity for Canagrex to make a tremendous contribution to agricultural exports.

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We know that every country in the world is becoming more and more aggressive in marketing, whether it be by providing subsidization, loan guarantees, insurance or help in market penetration techniques. Clearly Canagrex was the instrument chosen by the Parliament of Canada to do that kind of export development.

In the United States, the GSM 102 legislation provides assistance for export sales. We are very conscious of the fact that the United States is providing something like one bushel in every three or four to promote export sales. In that regard, we do have the Canadian Wheat Board which does not have that kind of subsidizing capacity, at least not at this stage, but for many other commodities which do not benefit from big national marketing agencies like the Wheat Board or the Canadian Dairy Commission, Canagrex was the agency that could have been used.

Practically every other country has an agency like Canagrex. France has the SOPEX export development agency and

Germany has the CMA agency, which is a joint venture between the Government of the Federal German Republic and the wholesale producers and processors. Australia has its Economic Development Council and Britain has the British Export Council. Israel has the Israeli Export Institute. It goes on and on, yet this Government chose to destroy Canagrex by cutting off its funds almost two years ago.

In the few short months the agency did operate, much of its time was spent meeting the requirements of the Treasury Board for its terms of reference. In spite of that, it assisted in the sale of some \$80 million worth of produce and was negotiating for another \$100 million worth of sales. It had completed some 15 studies on the market potential of various countries around the world, it had handled some 300 requests from within and without the country, it had helped some groups in completing lines of credit and it had promoted some pork sales in the Pacific Rim. It had promoted canola sales in eastern Europe and Latin America and had promoted sales of white beans in Cuba and several Latin American countries. It had promoted and assisted in sales of bull semen in China and eastern European countries. It had assisted in promoting sales in Central America and was dealing with the honey producers of Canada for sales in Europe. It had completed some preliminary discussions with regard to oats and barley for feed grains in the Eastern Bloc country of Bulgaria and had promoted the sale of soya bean meal to countries like Cuba, Kenya, Tonga and the Ivory Coast.

Canagrex was a Crown corporation which was really gaining momentum when the Government decided to destroy it. When the President of the Crown corporation appeared before the Agriculture Committee, he told us that the Minister of Agriculture was very sorry that the Government had unilaterally taken this decision. I believe that most farm organizations across Canada were very disappointed as well.

It seems like the Government is bound and determined to put the screws on the small producers. It does not want to see the producers of relatively smaller volume farm commodities having the same advantages as those who use the services of massive national agencies like the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Dairy Commission, agencies which promote the international sales of products. It is clear that the Government is working as the agent of big business. It has knuckled under to the pressure of the big international grain and commodity traders and has decided to destroy this small Crown corporation which would have been so beneficial to so many countries.

Instead of dealing with the major issues that face agriculture today, issues like whether or not the Government will provide a deficiency payment for western grain and eastern grain and corn producers, we are dealing with a government Bill designed to destroy a Crown corporation that helped and encouraged Canadian farmers. We hope that the Prime Minister's allusions to negotiating something with the Premier of Saskatchewan will not be as phoney as the announcement he made last April 30. At that time, the Prime Minister