

licence provision will prevent restrictive distribution practices. However, there are other major factors that will work against monopoly control in the Canadian seed industry. For one thing, there is the supply of varieties from public plant breeding programs, and there is the production and marketing of seed by farmer co-operatives and hundreds of seed growers.

On the second point, this legislation has no direct impact on agri-chemicals. The trend today is to only use chemicals in specialized situations where there are no alternative production techniques. The move to sustainable agriculture will also encourage the development of varieties which will resist pests and the breeders of such varieties will be rewarded under this legislation.

As to the effects on the Third World, plant breeders' rights in Canada will only impact on our foreign trade with other countries with similar legislation. This does not include Third World countries and furthermore, very few varieties adapted for Canadian conditions would prove useful in Third World countries.

Finally, by choosing to introduce this legislation specially designed for plant varieties, rather than amending the Patent Act, it can be argued that we are actually moving away from life patenting. Future developments in the patents are a separate issue and it has taken many years for plant breeders' rights legislation to come this far. I might say that many other governments have introduced legislation very similar to what we are proposing today.

The legislative committee has studied the technical details of the bill in great depth. They have reviewed the wording and have made some amendments which improve and clarify how the Canadian plant breeders' rights system should function. I congratulate the legislative committee on the thoroughness of its work.

We have heard from producers and their organizations. We feel that they need this legislation and they need it now. I am very hopeful that this House will pass this legislation very quickly and that it will become law in the very near future.

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today and speak on Bill C-15, an act respecting plant breeders' rights.

### *Government Orders*

As many of us know this is a bill that has been in and out of this House in different stages and different times for close to 15 years. I think it is time that it has finally reached third reading stage and I would like to make a few comments on that.

It has been a controversial bill and still is in many peoples' mind. However, as the previous speaker has said, the legislative committee had lengthy discussions. Many groups and individuals appeared before us. We had a good study but, like any bill, even though it is at its final stage, there could be further improvements in order to dispel some concerns that some people might have.

However, as one who has been very actively involved in the agri-food industry at a different level than at the present time, I feel very strongly that this bill is needed by the industry.

We had a good study in committee. I feel we strengthened the bill. We got further interpretation and definition of such terms as reasonable price and distribution. At report stage, we got agreement on the fact that there shall be an advisory committee. Previous to that there was a concern that it should only be may, and some of us felt very strongly about that. We were pleased that the amendment put forward by my colleague from Algoma, that there shall be an advisory committee, was adopted in order to keep the commissioner and the minister up to date on concerns.

Other worth-while information that came out in committee in order to dispel concerns of some people was a memorandum of understanding between Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Agriculture Canada. I would like to read from one part of that memorandum as follows:

1. Ag Can will consult with CCA on all matters related to the administration of the Act which may be of concern to CCA. More particularly, with respect to the regulations and procedures to be approved under the Act, Ag Can will consult with the Bureau of Policy Coordination to ensure consistency with other intellectual property legislation and will consult with the Office of the Director of Investigation and Research under the *Competition Act* on issues related to competition policy.

There are more sections along the same line that I feel will go a long way toward comforting people with concerns.