

Canagrex

Minister why we need the excessive powers in Clause 14. They include such powers as to purchase agricultural products and food products and to package, process, store, ship, insure, import, export or sell or otherwise dispose of products purchased by Canagrex. Its powers include being able to enter into contracts with Canadian companies, co-operatives and marketing boards, but the Minister says only in joint ventures. However, if any farm or co-operative is in financial trouble, it is very easy to put out the hand of Government and get involved in a joint venture.

• (1230)

It has the power to purchase and lease property as it wishes in the operation and management of its business, to pledge, mortgage, hypothecate, sell, lease or otherwise deal with and dispose of personal property and sell and otherwise dispose of real property. These powers go on for three pages in the Bill.

Those are the powers that the majority of Canadian agriculture is saying it does not accept or want. Canadian agriculture says it has no objection to the promotion of agricultural products or to the facilitation of the export of agricultural products, or to the desire of many agricultural product boards in this country to have some export credit. To have some export credit is essential in order to compete in today's world. Many other countries have those powers and are using them. There is no objection to that.

If we were to spend this \$12 million and the \$75 million in credit which the corporation has to assist private ventures in this country, to assist marketing boards which have been set up and which have the facilities to do this job, to assist our foreign trade service in putting in place agricultural exports people around the world, there would be no objections from any person in this country.

Take a look at what Japan has done. Its trading company does not have these powers yet it is one of the most successful in the world. The Japanese have at least 80,000 persons worldwide trading in their various products. They assist various private corporations around the world. Japan's trading company has no powers to buy and sell. It has no powers to store or otherwise get involved in the private production of products in Japan. The trading company is out there to facilitate exports.

Often in committee the Minister raised the matter of what other countries are doing. I looked into that matter. Only one of those countries, the totally socialist country of Israel under Agrexco, has the powers that are in this Bill.

Other socialist countries such as Denmark do not have these powers. Denmark has trading corporations and they do exactly what I have been talking about except for having those powers. Let us take a look at Germany. It has a very successful agricultural trading board, a non-profit organization. It lobbies for exports and imports. It handles legal issues. It is involved in food and drug regulations. It advertises and promotes imported and exported German products directly to consumers. Nowhere does this German marketing board have the power to buy and sell.

I can go on and mention Mexico, France, Britain—

Mr. Whelan: The Danish Hog Marketing Board?

Mr. Schellenberger:—and Australia. They all have very viable and successful trading corporations, none of which has the power to buy and sell.

I do not believe in the arguments which the Minister has put forward. He said in committee that without the buy and sell provisions this corporation, Canagrex, will be as useless as—he used another term but I will use the term mammary glands on a boar. If he is saying that, then he is saying that all these other very successful trading corporations in the world are failures. Well, they run circles around what we have been able to do. They do not need the powers that are in Bill C-85 to do so. If the Minister would remove that particular section, there would be no objections. The motions which I have put on the Order Paper deal with that. If the Minister removed those sections, there would be no objections from anyone in this country regarding this Bill and we could get on with the excellent work that is necessary to make trade viable.

The real point and the point which many Canadians are getting fed up with is the creation of more Crown corporations, of which this is one. It is just like Petro-Canada. My colleague the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) will be raising a very important issue as to what happens when you create Crown corporations, how these Crown corporations spend their time building bureaucracies and subsidiaries until they use the powers granted by legislation in the House. We are coming to the point where we, as Members of Parliament, recognize the dangers of allowing the Governor in Council the right to do certain things, to put powers in Bills beyond their real need to function properly. Crown corporations do not have to worry about making profits. They do not have to worry about going bankrupt. They do not have to worry about initiative and incentive because the taxpayer, through this Government over the past ten or twelve years, has continually funded them. Look at what has happened to Canadair, which is a recent example. That is why it is dangerous. That is why private corporations across Canada which have traded excellently in the agriculture industry are frightened for their security. I do not blame them.

We could do the same things by adding these funds to the Export Development Corporation or to the Commercial Development Corporation, expanding our foreign trade service, giving our various private companies and marketing boards the power to use export credit. With those functions we have no need whatsoever for this Bill called Canagrex.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Well spoken.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, on the subject of Bill C-85 and the motions before the House at the present time, I am rather surprised at the comments made by