

refer to the gentleman's constituency when she is speaking about him in the House of Commons.

Mr. Rossi: That is what she did.

Mrs. Finestone: I referred to my hon. friend, I did not refer to his riding.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I think the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) knows that she should refer to the Hon. Member by his riding and not necessarily by his former employment. Please continue.

● (1250)

Mrs. Finestone: Could the Hon. Member tell me whether the CBC suffered a cut of \$50 million in addition to the \$133 million cut?

Mr. Caldwell: Madam Speaker, I do not want to go through this again. In the November, 1984 statement the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced a \$70 million cut in the CBC budget.

Mrs. Finestone: Seventy-five million dollars.

Mr. Caldwell: Okay, a \$75 million cut. There has been no cut since that time.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Miss MacDonald seconded by Mr. Mazankowski, moved that Bill C-4, an Act to amend the Railway Act, be read the second time and referred to a Legislative Committee.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a Legislative Committee.

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CANAGREX DISSOLUTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture) moved that Bill C-2, an Act to dissolve Canagrex and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a Legislative Committee.

He said: Madam Speaker, I rise on second reading of Bill C-2, an Act to repeal the Canagrex Act and to dissolve the Crown corporation. I am sure the reasons for this Bill are well known. In his November, 1984, economic statement, my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), announced

Canagrex

the Government's intention to phase out Canagrex by April of 1985. The initiative was aimed at reducing government spending. However, there was more to it than that. We also believed that Canagrex was not going to achieve the targets set out for it as a corporation. Certainly the industry was not going to use the Crown corporation in the manner planned.

As Members familiar with the corporation know, Canagrex was to identify new markets, to promote exports of Canadian products, to participate in state-to-state trading, to provide export counselling to the industry, to make available grants, contributions, loans, and loan guarantees and to import, export, buy and sell. I am sure that you, Madam Speaker, and all members of the House would agree that these are all very worthy goals. However, when we undertook to phase out Canagrex we believed that existing government departments could co-operate with the private sector to pursue these trade goals more effectively. Indeed, that has proven to be the case.

The Agricultural Products Board, External Affairs, the Export Development Corporation and, of course, my Department, Agriculture Canada, are the key federal players. The Agricultural Products Board has the power to buy and sell if necessary, and it does so. The Export Development Corporation provides insurance, loans and guarantees. About a year ago the EDC introduced a credit insurance program for exporters of up to 360 days for bulk agricultural products. This followed the work of an interdepartmental task force. In January of this year the EDC introduced another credit insurance program of up to three years. The programs cover grains, oil seeds, pulse, tobacco, animal products, seeds and genetic material. These important initiatives by the EDC have succeeded in putting our agricultural exporters in a much better competitive position. In fact, we expect that about \$200 million worth of product will have moved under these programs by the end of the year.

The Department of External Affairs plays an important role in the development of markets for our agricultural products. In particular, its program for export market development supports both outgoing and incoming trade missions. It also provides grants and contributions for exporters who are pursuing sales abroad.

My Department, Agriculture Canada, and External Affairs have developed a very close and effective working relationship in order to improve the environment for agricultural exporters. There are numerous examples of our co-operative efforts which are working to the great advantage of Canadian agricultural producers from coast to coast. Agriculture Canada and External Affairs work together on analysing markets and identifying new ones. We also co-operate in technical and promotional activities, seminars and trade fairs. Together these two departments are developing a service called the Export Market Information System. This system will provide up-to-date information on agricultural markets throughout the world. We have established a joint committee on international agri-food trade development. This committee ensures that the services of our two departments in the field of