

Supply

The lessons of the family farm, the lessons of arable land, the lessons of the environmental questions of the 1990s are not the lessons of the vertically integrated big companies. They are the lessons learned by family farms that have stayed in the family from generation to generation to generation.

Ralph Ferguson has a legacy for his children and his grandchildren, and that legacy is to produce food, food that for Canadians is still the second least expensive in the world, to produce that food and to allow his children and his grandchildren to continue to produce it.

Is that the view of Cargill? Cargill has to answer to its shareholders who are looking for annual dividends, understandably.

[*Translation*]

However, there is a difference between our country and the United States. The minister referred to those among the 106 countries at the GATT talks that are against us. There is one country the Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture will have to persuade to change its mind.

[*English*]

You can talk about the 106 countries. The country that we have to get to is sitting south of the border. It is the good friend of the Prime Minister. Yes, he went fishing down in Kennebunkport. He went fishing for a job. And he came up flat, not only in his own personal ambitions, but also he came up flat for the farmers of Canada.

The Minister of Agriculture has failed once again to explain to the House. Yes, we know that the Prime Minister has spoken to several international figures on this issue, but he has failed to get his message across.

Since January what specific initiatives has this government and this Prime Minister taken to get the message across that we are not going to take it any more? We are not going to allow Canadian farm families to go the way of the dodo bird. That is what the Dunkel report would do and that is what this minister who publicly is stating his support for supply management, but who privately is already—

[*Translation*]

He is already clearing the way for tariffication, although surely he must know this means the end of the family farm in this country. Yes, I am an urban member.

[*English*]

You can sit there with that smarmy face and smirk at me. I am an urban member of Parliament, but like every Canadian I believe there is something that makes us

different from the Americans. It is that we have developed a system to protect our food supply, not only for this generation but for future generations.

We threw away our capacity to be sovereign in a number of areas with the trade deal. Remember, the government said: "Oh, yes, but we'll be able to get everything so much cheaper. Come on board, consumers, because we are going to be able to profit from this trade agreement".

In my province alone, one-third of the manufacturing jobs have gone down the tubes. Now the government is asking us to follow once again.

Well, I say one thing. I congratulate John Wise who had the guts to leave this government before marketing boards were put on the table. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that in the last election—

[*Translation*]

—he gave us every assurance that this system would never be tampered with. But he knew.

[*English*]

He knew that what Eugene Whelan began was going to be put to death by this government either privately or publicly. On this side of the House, we will get every member. I do not care if you are from downtown Hamilton, from downtown Wawa, or from downtown Prince Albert. We need your help to fight this fight and we need to convince this government that it has to get through to its friends in Washington to let them know that in Canada, we reserve the right to be different.

We reserve the right to remain Canadian. Above all, we want sovereignty in our food supply.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw to the attention of the hon. member who just concluded her address that in the Cairns group, of which Canada is a member, there are some 14 member countries: Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Columbia, Fiji, Hungary, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

We cannot allow anyone to think that there is just one nation that we have to convince to accept the position that Canada has. We cannot convince the members of the Cairns group to support Canada's position. That does not mean we have stopped. That does not mean that we will not continue. What it means is we do.

I agree with the hon. member. We need the support of everyone in this Chamber and we need the support of people outside. It does not help the cause of trying to get support from countries to say that there is one country or it is one person's responsibility.