

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member is entitled to a short preamble and a comment and a fast question put succinctly.

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. First there is the impact of the legislation on the level of exports; second, he said that UPA is totally dissatisfied with the amendment. I will tell him, for the record, that UPA's amendment has no common denominator with the amendment tabled by the Minister. Therefore, I would ask the Hon. Member for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead to tell me who, from UPA, confirmed that he was totally satisfied. I would like to have his name, and certainly we can then have the reaction of that person. And, secondly, the impact of the legislation on exports.

Mr. Gérin: First, Mr. Jacques Proulx, UPA's president. The first thing he had to say before the Standing Committee on Agriculture was that Liberals, for 11 years, had promised them a legislation but never could come up with one. He recognized this legislation was a serious effort—

An Hon. Member: We stood up.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please.

Mr. Gérin: At any rate, Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member for Shefford will agree with me that in the pork industry, exports are vitally important. There is no way the pork industry in the current situation could be restricted to domestic consumption. I think we should have a broad mind, we should go beyond the scope of this legislation when looking at the problems with agriculture. This Bill helps, but it will not solve all the problems faced by Canadian farming, that is a sure thing. I say to you please try and have a broad mind; you Liberals, try not to be partisan. You often brag that you are trying not to be partisan. But make an effort not to be, in actual fact. How can we offer pork producers their present high volumes if we have no exports?

That is the problem, the big problem. Mr. Scalabrini and Mr. Proulx came to us and said this was one of their big problems. Surely they will have at some point to get together with producers in other Provinces, they will have to sit down, agree on what the industry will do. We have trouble with our exports to the United States and other countries; we have trouble exporting our commodities. We produce more than we eat; what are we going to do? Mr. Scalabrini said: Could we not have some kind of national plan to increase Canadian consumption? Could we not . . . For, as he knew very well, Mr. Scalabrini said: There will have to be some consensus among pork producers. The beginning of the end will come when all Canadian hog producers can sit together at the same table in an effort to really try to solve this problem. In this endeavour,

Agricultural Stabilization Act

they can rely on the support of all Progressive Conservative members. Can they rely also on the support of the Liberal members?

An Hon. Member: Absolutely not!

Mr. Gérin: I really do not know, because all that Liberal members are trying to do is to cause trouble. It is clear that a solution will not be found in an atmosphere of dissension and trouble. On the contrary. So let us be logical. Let us be practical. And let us promote these meetings. Personally, I tell the farm and hog producers in my riding that they can rely on me to promote a meeting of hog producers from across Canada, so that they can all sit together and find a solution.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I was—

● (1900)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Excuse me. Your colleague would like to ask a question and there is only five minutes left.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had no intention to deal with this issue, but when I heard these remarks from my office, I was shocked. How can the hon. member who spoke before me tell us that Quebec farm producers support this legislation, when right outside this House representatives from farm organizations from all over Quebec are telling us that they are against it? How can the hon. member tell us that to our face, when there are people at the door who are telling us something entirely different? Personally, I should like to hear the hon. member tell the truth!

Mr. Gérin: I am quite surprised the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) is here tonight, because he was supposed to celebrate or, rather, attend a party in his honour. Nobody knows exactly what for, but anyway.

A while ago, I met the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who had come to the House to support this bill to amend the Agricultural Stabilization Act, and he told me that—

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gérin: —he had met this afternoon with the Quebec hog producers who had indicated to him that they could live very easily with this bill and that they would seek the consensus the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) mentioned a while ago.

Mr. Tardif: Mr. Speaker, I must admit that the comments made by the Hon. Member for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) show he has some courage, and I mean the courage to rise in the House. Unfortunately, his comments also proved beyond a doubt that he is toeing the party line to a