

shocking as to be unbelievable. In fact, I find myself outraged as a western Canadian to hear this kind of conduct from the New Democratic Party.

My question, after that very brief preamble, is, when one considers that 40 per cent of New Democrats in Saskatchewan favour free trade, and the sensible people who do not vote New Democrat, a significant number of whom also favour free trade, where do western New Democratic Members of Parliament get their data, their input, their contribution to stand up in the House of Commons and fly in the face of common sense? I would like that question answered, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, a poll recorded in *The Globe and Mail* today reported that in western Canada—

Mr. Gormley: In rural seats.

Mr. Orlikow:—the NDP was in first place with 38 per cent support.

Mr. Gormley: What about Manitoba? You are third.

Mr. Orlikow: The Conservatives were in third place with 24 per cent of support.

I am told, and I am subject to correction, that provincial polls taken in the Province of Saskatchewan show the NDP running 30 per cent ahead of the Conservatives. I say to the Hon. Member that if the Prime Minister had not listened to that SOS from the Premier of Saskatchewan during the last Saskatchewan election and had not come through with that supposed billion dollars for grain farmers, the Conservatives would have been defeated. Where is this year's support program? The Member asked me where I got my facts. I gave him the figures as to what will happen to farmers and agriculture in Manitoba calculated by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. As I indicated to him, they were substantiated for me by a senior economist at the University of Manitoba.

● (1805)

I suggest to the Hon. Member that before he accepts all the propaganda he gets from his Prime Minister, it would be useful for him and the farmers he represents to check with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and other farm commodity organizations in Saskatchewan to see what estimates they have made of the effects of this agreement on their farmers. He should do that before he makes blanket statements in his endorsement of this agreement.

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago I had the pleasure of meeting with some members of the European Economic Community who had been elected to the European Parliament. I asked them questions about when the market was formed a number of years ago. I asked if any of the 13 countries lost their culture, sovereignty, heritage or identity. They said no, not one country lost any of those things. They said they knew exactly what we are going through. When the EEC was formed a number of years ago, all the socialists and the labour unions opposed it. They fought it violently. However, the Governments carried on and trade is expanding between those countries. They are all flourishing. It has created thousands of jobs. They keep removing tariffs, and

Supply

they have not heard another word about it from the socialists and the labour unions.

They said they knew exactly what we are going through, and that is exactly why we are not going to back off. We realize that the NDP made its position perfectly clear from day one. It is against free trade talks. It is against free trade. Members of the NDP certainly did not mince their words. They are totally opposed to it. That is what they said publicly. However, it is interesting to read their policy papers, which policy was agreed to in March of this year.

Referring to agriculture, the NDP says we should increase activities in promoting trade. That is what we are doing. They also say we should pursue mature state-to-state relationships and cease to deal with the U.S. on an issue-by-issue basis. We agree with that and that is what we are doing.

The Hon. Member referred to countervailing duties. The U.S. still has its laws in place until we finalize the trade agreement. The U.S. cannot ignore those laws. If someone files a complaint down there under the existing laws, they have to act on it. They will do so until we have the final deal.

Another policy of the NDP is to explore sectorial free trade with the U.S. That is what we are doing. The same thing is to be done with other countries. We have trade missions all over the world. They want production safeguards similar to the Auto Pact. We agree with that and that is what we are doing.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is with regret that I interrupt the Hon. Member, but the period for questions and comments is over.

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Madam Speaker, we do not have a lot of time but perhaps I can make two brief points.

First, there are a lot of us in this House directly connected with agriculture, either hands-on as farmers or because we have lived on farms. Anyone who is part of that process and directly connected with it will know that Canadian farmers are very good at what they do. We have the best quality grain in the world. I say that not in smugness but because of Canada's reputation around the world for producing a very high quality product. We have as good cattle herds, both beef and dairy, as there are in the world. I could refer to other commodities as well, but the point is that we are very good at what we do.

● (1810)

Canadian farmers are also good at using the resources available to them. Farmers have a lot of pride in their work. We are often asked why we farm. We put up with all kinds of uncertainties. Some of us know what it is like to spend six months living with a herd of cows trying to calve them. Some of us know what it is like to worry that it is too dry for the crop in the spring, or that we are unable to seed because it is too wet. We know what it is to be concerned about wind storms when we hear the wind howling in the middle of the night. We know what it is like to watch clouds build up and worry about hail storms.

We also know the joy of seeing a newborn calf and know that there is nothing sadder than seeing a dead calf and seeing