

be thinking along the lines of a free school lunch program that might include apples. Instantly available machinery is definitely needed for the protection of our producers when injury is caused by cheap imports.

In addition to the action announced by the minister today, I hope we can look forward to further studies of this very important problem. If we look at some of the measures the United States has taken recently to protect its economy, perhaps we will realize that while we do not want to engage in overt retaliation we should do no less for our own people.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for what he has just announced.

I would however draw his attention to the fact that the new program might help on a temporary basis perhaps the blueberry producers. Because I live in the main blueberry-producing area of Quebec I feel qualified to talk about it.

In fact, the decrease in the income of blueberry producers can be attributed to two causes: first of all, to a blueberry shortage and secondly, to a drop in prices.

The blueberry shortage is essentially due to the fact that oil is used to burn the blueberry fields. It was thought, in the past, when forest fires happened every 10, 15 or 20 years, that blueberry crops were enhanced by these fires. People came to the conclusion that blueberry fields had to be burnt every two or three years, which has brought about the systematic destruction of almost all our blueberry fields in the North, because all new shoots are burnt. Results can easily be anticipated.

Government experts have set up their research centre in Saint-Léon in a neighbouring constituency where there are only two blueberry fields, while we have 14. All our blueberry fields are being destroyed by that excessive burning.

The main cause of the decrease in income is the shortage of blueberries which has grown worse in the last two or three years.

The second reason is the price. Prices have gone down steadily, especially when the blueberry pickers union came into the picture and tried to corner the blueberry market. Competition was not tolerated. American buyers used to come every year. I have seen bumper years where 16 to 20 buyers showed up. Now, there is not one. Such few as do come all deal with the union, setting their own price, so that pickers are not even interested.

I believe those are the two main reasons for the slump. The department will have to tackle them, listening not to the self-styled experts in Saint-Léon, but to buyers who know something about blueberries. They know they are wild fruit and that destroying their habitat, which is the forest, results in their disappearing. Actually, they are trying to grow blueberries in "deserts". That's the main trouble.

Mr. Speaker, I merely want to draw this matter to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture—I would have a lot more to say—that he might have a serious inquiry made by blueberry producers, those who really know the

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business, and not by people who know nothing about it. Then we might get a sensible report.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Bellechasse on a point of order.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, it is with much hesitation that I do so, because on many previous occasions I have thought of drawing the attention of the Chair to the following fact: when a minister makes a statement, it is normal for a representative of each party to express his opinion on the reaction of his party to the statement. But when it is time for the Social Credit spokesman to take the floor and speak in French as he has every right to do, very often hon. members talk between themselves so that the hon. member who has the floor can hardly be heard.

I realize that there is no ill-will, but I request that, in future, the right of speech of any member of my party be respected so that one may hear what he has to say.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that all hon. members will consider the remarks of the hon. member for Bellechasse. I believe them to be well founded, and I invite all members to remember that those who speak on behalf of their party, following a ministerial statement, have the right, under our Standing Orders, to be heard by their colleagues.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

EFFECT OF U.S. DISC LEGISLATION—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Steven Otto (York East): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to request the unanimous consent of the House to make a motion in connection with the passage of the Domestic International Sales Corporation provisions by the Senate of the United States yesterday. The pressing and urgent nature of the situation arises out of the fact that the DISC legislation will lead to a massive exodus of manufacturing plants from Canada to the United States in order to gain the advantage of a tax-free position. The effect will be to close down half of Canada's industrial production and produce massive unemployment. In these circumstances it is imperative that this House debate what measures should be taken to ensure Canada's economic survival. I would therefore move, if unanimous consent is given, the following motion:

That this House now consider what economic measures should be taken in response to the passage of the DISC legislation in the United States.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: We agree, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: And I will second the motion, Mr. Speaker.