

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

feather industry, all of whom are genuinely concerned about the impact of Article 706 on their industry.

I would think that probably half those who supported me in the election came from the ranks of the chicken and turkey producers, and they did so because of their fear about what this agreement will mean for their operations. Specifically set out in the agreement are increases in the import quotas in respect of poultry product, the increase being somewhere in the neighbourhood of 2 per cent.

As it happens, Eugene Whelan came to my riding to campaign on my behalf, and he informed us that that 2 per cent increase could translate into \$70 million of product.

When quoted in percentage terms, it may not seem like all that much; but when given in dollar terms its impact is more readily understood.

We also have an amendment which seeks to preserve the right of the Government of Canada to place quantitative import restrictions on the import of poultry product from the U.S. We believe it is necessary to protect our domestic industry. Again, I shall read the amendment for the record:

That Bill C-2 be amended by adding thereto, immediately, after line 8 on page 6 thereof, the following clause:

"13. Notwithstanding anything in the Agreement, the Government of Canada reserves the right to impose quantitative import restrictions on chicken and chicken products, turkey and turkey products, eggs and egg products, as these products are defined in the Agreement."

That amendment, Mr. Speaker, would merely retain the right of the Government of Canada to protect Canadian poultry farmers. Yet, the Government would not accept it for consideration; it would not even accept it for debate. We feel that these sorts of things were needed in the deal. Again, the Government will have to pay for it.

• (1620)

The FTA provides for a one-time increase in global import quotas on poultry and, as I said, increases the levels allowed into the country. I do not know if you realize the size of the industry I am talking about. In 1986, Canadian production totalled 582.2 million kilograms of poultry meat and 491.5 million dozen eggs. The farm gate value totalled \$1.4 billion. Added value for processing and retailing was \$536.3 million and \$628.8 million. The estimated retail value was \$2.41 billion. We can see the significance of the industry for

Canada, yet this agreement throws open the doors to competition.

As I said, a lot of my constituents worked on my behalf to elect me to this House and I thank them for that. I want to be able to go back to them and say that in this debate we were able to do something for them, we were able to change the Government's mind on certain things. However, I am afraid I will not be able to go back and give them a Christmas present like that because the Government has consistently refused to address these questions.

Every supply managed commodity group in this country is very concerned about this deal. Our supply-management policy was established in the 1970s in an effort to stabilize previous large variations in product supply and price. This would introduce some certainty into the market. I believe it has worked very well since the 1970s, and I am afraid this deal just throws it out the window. We cannot have an open-door policy and supply management. They are just inconsistent.

I do not know if you have been to upper New York State, but if you look at the dairy industry there, which is not supply managed, you would realize how well supply-management works in Canada and how well off our dairy farmers are compared to New York State farmers.

With this agreement, and without the supply-management system, our farmers will not be as well off. Granted, the Conservatives say that supply-management is protected in the Free Trade Agreement, but I do not believe it is. In fact, from what I have heard, the Canadian Government does not care. Even if it is in there, the Government is working with the Americans at the GATT negotiations to get rid of Article XI, throw it out the door. Eugene Whalen worked hard to get that article into GATT and every country in the world would like something like it, but it has been said by people at GATT that our Government is supporting the Americans in their effort to throw it out.

I do not agree with that. I do not think the people on this side agree with it. I think we will find that the Government will learn, probably not for four years, what the people think about how this free trade deal has been going.

If the food processing industry leaves the country, as McCain Foods has said, if they go to the U.S., the associated farming industries will go, too. I have dairy farmers in my riding who ship milk to Waterloo. It makes the milk into cheese, puts it on pizzas. Mr.