

At the Annual Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations, the practice has developed that each nation can choose one issue to push. For the Tokyo Summit, Brian Mulroney chose agriculture. That marked the first time in the history of the Economic Summits that any country made agriculture a priority. The day before we left for Tokyo, the Prime Minister, Mike Wilson and I, along with John Wise and Charlie Mayer and other Western Ministers, met with representatives of most of the Canadian producer groups. That meeting was remarkable not only because it drew together farm and political leaders, but also because farm groups as different as the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the NFU agreed on the advice they gave the Prime Minister. We were thinking of having that described as the Eighth Wonder of the World. In fact, the atmosphere of common purpose has continued, in the frequent consultations which the Prime Minister, and other Ministers, have continued with the wide range of Canadian producer groups.

In Tokyo, Brian Mulroney put the facts on the table. He quoted the relative subsidies available to comparable farmers in Europe, the US and Canada. At that time, the Europeans were subsidizing their grain at \$94 per tonne, the Americans at \$75 per tonne and we were subsidizing our grain at \$34 per tonne. To our surprise, no one disputed his thesis. In the privacy of those meetings, every leader admitted the problem, and their role in it. One head of a European Government expressed the dilemma succinctly, in saying: "We are all hurt by this, and none of us can stop it alone."

So the challenge became to find a way to stop it together. Mr. Mulroney immediately proposed the establishment of a small group of experts who could identify the most serious of the subsidy practices carried out by each of the Summit countries, with an eye to getting agreement to roll back those several offensive practices together. The Summit stopped short of that, and instead called upon the OECD to publish studies identifying subsidy and protectionist practices.