

taking risks and putting up with an unpredictable climate, various diseases and fluctuating interest rates. They are survivors. They can once again meet the challenge with pride and dignity.

People need more than bread: they need more than figures and financial statements. Quebec farmers know that what people need above all are dignity and pride. Should we deprive ourselves of the life enjoyed by free nations, which deserve to be free, merely because we are a minority in North America? Based on what logic or what decree should the Quebec nation deprive itself of what is vital to other nations? Farmers know our history well. They know that there was a winner and a loser.

I will conclude by saying to my fellow farmers: you should not have any complexes: your past performances are a guarantee of future success. Your land is yours. All you have to do is give yourself a country. That country is called Quebec.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): The Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs, on a point of order.

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FIREARMS ACT

BILL C-68—NOTICE OF TIME ALLOCATION

Hon. Alfonso Gagliano (Secretary of State (Parliamentary Affairs) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I wish to indicate that an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of sections (1) or (2) of Standing Order 78 in respect of proceedings at the second reading stage of Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 78(3), I therefore give notice that I will propose a motion at the next sitting of the House for the purpose of allotting a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at that stage.

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SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY—AGRICULTURE

The House resumed consideration of the motion.

• (1600)

[English]

Mr. Wayne Easter (Malpeque, Lib.): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend talked about the future as being frightening. I would certainly agree with him. The future is extremely frightening for Quebec farmers if they listen to the misinformation which I heard coming from the other side relative to what would happen if Quebec separates.

Supply

He is absolutely right in saying that supply management has been the only viable income system for farmers. He should admit up front that this viable income system will be put in jeopardy should Quebec move toward separation. That supply management system is one of the benefits Quebec farmers have gained from being a part of Canadian federation.

While I am on my feet, I might as well ask a question about my concern with the resolution put forward by hon. members opposite. They are leaving the impression that converting the grain transportation subsidies into direct subsidies to western farmers is an advantage at the expense of Quebec. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As a government, we have admitted that changing the WGTA, which has been the cornerstone of agricultural policy in western Canada, is extremely hurtful to western farmers. The fact of the matter is that farmers in Quebec got off relatively lightly with the budget as compared to those in the west.

How does the member opposite explain to farmers in Quebec that they are not going to lose the supply management system should they move to separation? Is he not willing to admit that Canada has been extremely good to farmers in Quebec over the last century and in fact the budget has really been relatively light in targeting Quebec farmers?

[Translation]

Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane, BQ): Madam Speaker, the hon. member asked a question, but I think the answer is pretty obvious, because as you know, when we need something, we go to whoever has what we want. At one point, Russia was ordering wheat from us. We were capitalists and they were communists. They did not care about borders. They came to buy our wheat because it was good wheat and the price was right.

When people say Canada had been very good for Quebec, my answer is this: our farmers are telling us this has got to stop. These are not my words but theirs. I speak on their behalf, since when we are elected, it is our duty to speak on behalf of our constituents. I talked to farmers and they told me to say what I just said. This is no joke, this is dead serious. I speak for the farmers in my riding, and they say it is practically impossible to live with this kind of system.

Mr. Maurice Bernier (Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead, BQ): Madam Speaker, as soon as the Bloc Québécois caucus decided that the next motion on the Order Paper for our opposition day, would be a motion on agriculture denouncing the Liberal government's budget, I told the hon. member for Frontenac that I was very anxious to speak in this debate.

First of all, I want to commend my colleague from Frontenac for the clarity of his presentation and also for the fact that his interventions on behalf of the Bloc Québécois were very much to the point.