

Supply

2) which have failed to counter U.S. protectionist actions (including those taken after the enactment of the Trade Deal) against Canadian agricultural products such as pork and other commodities vital to our economy;

3) which have failed, as evidenced by the recent GATT panel decision on ice cream and yoghurt, to ensure that Canada is able to maintain its marketing board and orderly marketing systems;

4) which have failed to have any effect on U.S. agricultural export subsidy programs, such as the export enhancement program, which are contrary to the claimed "spirit" of the Trade Deal while the Canadian government has, at the same time, been moving unilaterally to dismantle programs beneficial to Canada's farmers; and

5) which have failed to create confidence among farmers in the future of the food supply system in Canada and its ability to ensure long-term food security for consumers.

He said: Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about today is the future of Canadian agriculture. What we are talking about as well in this House of Commons is the future in Canada of the farm family.

This Tory party claimed for years to be the best friend the Canadian farmer ever had, but for the last five years it has done nothing but stab Canadian farmers in the back.

[Translation]

For many years we have heard Hon. Members opposite tell us that rural and farming communities were the natural constituency of the Conservative Party. For years, they maintained the fiction that only the Tories were prepared to defend the farmers, that only the Tories understood the problems facing Canadian farmers. For years, they told us "Wait until we are in power! You'll see how much better off Canadian farmers will be." We are waiting, Mr. Speaker, and it has been a long time. It has been five years, and we are still waiting for the farm revolution the Tories promised us!

Canadian farmers have been waiting for a long time. They have been waiting forever, and we are still waiting here in the House for that so-called farm revolution. The Tory revolution never happened, however. Increasingly, the younger generation is leaving the farm. Farm bankruptcy rates have increased dramatically. Farmers are still facing a debt crisis. Operating costs have gone up. When the Government finally decided to help, those who benefitted most were the big corporations and large operations, while small farmers were at a disadvantage.

Canadian farmers have faced natural disasters. They realize it all part of farming floods, droughts and all kinds of natural catastrophes but the worst disaster they ever experienced was the Tory Government.

[English]

Most of us in this House represent urban constituencies. I want to say that the urban citizens of Canada, the people of Vancouver Quadra and of all the other great cities of our country take our food too much for granted. We tend to think that if it is there in the store or on the shelf it will always be there and we will always have plenty. But that will only remain true, and I say this to the metropolitan citizens of Canada, if we maintain our self-sufficiency in food production; if we Canadians do not become reliant on another country for our food.

What I want to say clearly to Canadians is that the Tory government, under this Prime Minister, has started us on the road to agriculture dependency. This government signed a trade deal with the United States that will devastate the Canadian farm family. It told us the reason was to get secure access to the American market. We said in the House of Commons, across the country and during a federal election that the only way we would get secure access to the American market for our farm products, or any other Canadian export, was to obtain a specific exemption from the United States protectionist trade law.

Once upon a time that was the government's own position. I recite again to the House of Commons the Prime Minister's interview with the *Wall Street Journal* on April 3, 1987, as follows:

U.S. trade remedy laws cannot apply to Canada, period.

In the same interview, he stated:

You can't have a free trade arrangement and expect the traditional laws of countervail to apply.

Those were his words. They were echoed by the Minister for International Trade who said in St. John's, Newfoundland, to his own Board of Trade in July 1987:

Unless we get out from under the threat of countervail and other U.S. trade remedy law and unless there is an effective dispute settlement resolution to bind the Americans to their commitments, a free trade agreement with the United States would not be a good deal for Canada.

We could not have said it any more clearly. However, the trade agreement is clear and to the contrary.