

Supply

show a return to the producer, and this is after approximately 1 per cent of the producers in the United States per month have decided to throw in the towel and leave the industry.

It is shocking that such shortages would occur within the United States. They are picking up the milk every day from farmers. If consumers want milk on a weekend they must buy it before three o'clock on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon because of what has happened.

That is an example of where this government is leading us. It is leading us to a system of supply and demand and shortages in this nation. I abhor the direction it is taking which will leave Canada as a nation vulnerable to the whims of the market of supply and demand that it no longer controls but rather leaves the control in the hands of the corporate structures.

In closing, I would ask this government, for goodness sake, to stop and take a look at what it is doing to the farmers of Canada, at the credit being made available to them through the Farm Credit Corporation, and at the hardships it is inflicting on the people of this nation.

I have in my own riding a man who is severely disabled. He has been held at the end of a string for the last three months and nothing has been done to help resolve his problem. The Farm Credit Corporation Act states that the corporation may make compromises, rewrite mortgages and do all those things that are conducive to a lending operation. Yet that has been ignored in the case of this family.

I ask the government to show some compassion, not only for the producers of Canada who are facing these hardships, but for those left to the whims of the market-place to wither and die on the vine.

In closing, I just want to ask this government to stop and realize where it is going, how it has been taken in by the United States on the free trade agreement and the subsidy wars that it is escalating at the present time. I

should point out that the United States appropriations committee for the second year has now placed a cap of \$770 million on the funding for the export enhancement programs.

The government has to take action, dig in its heels and not allow itself to be pushed around any more.

Mr. Vanclief: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a couple of comments and ask the member for Lambton—Middlesex a question. As we read through the trade deal which has been touted by the government, the real strength, as it says, is the snapback as far as duties and tariffs on fruit and vegetable crops that the trade deal puts in place is concerned. They brag about the five-day situation there.

I can tell members of the House from experience of producing quite large quantities of these products that the reality is that when you need five consecutive days the damage is done. In other words, if it happens for two or three days and then someone can say it was okay for the fourth day, the five-day cycle is broken.

Let us look, for example, at the production of strawberries in Canada which are produced for about three and one-half to four weeks. Is the damage not going to be done by the time we can prove five days? Then we get through the bureaucratic red tape, et cetera, and the influx of those products coming in. I would like to ask the member to comment on whether he thinks that snapback mechanism has a possibility of having any success.

The other thing, along that same line in fruits and vegetables as well, is that the word "harmonization" is used quite frequently in the free trade agreement. What does the member for Lambton—Middlesex think is going to happen over the years as we harmonize our grade standards, our regulations and our residue standards with the United States? Are we going to continue to have the high standard of food safety in Canada that we are proud to say to Canadians that we have at the present time?