

Mr. Boudria: "Oh, oh!" say the Hon. Members on that side of the House. A fact that the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) across the way forgot!

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying before I was interrupted by the Conservative Members opposite, the Agreement threatens the dairy sector and milk production in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and elsewhere in Canada. First, there is the whole subject of ice cream: 4.5 million hectolitres of milk are used to make it.

I see that the the Minister of State for Agriculture (Mr. Blais) has just arrived.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I am happy, extremely happy, to see that the Minister has arrived to lend an ear so that he may later convince his Conservative colleagues of the error of their ways. I see that the arrogance born of power has already overtaken the Minister of State for Agriculture. May I remind him that in a democracy, all positions, even that of Minister of State for Agriculture, are temporary. Time will tell what is to become of the Minister of State for Agriculture.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask my colleagues opposite one last time to think. I know that they are not often called upon to do so and that thinking is hard for them, but I am sure they can learn. With practice, even a Conservative can learn to think.

I ask the Members opposite to think. Mr. Chairman, there is still time for them to withdraw this bill, forget the whole thing and come to their senses. How about it, Mr. Chairman?

• (2040)

The Chairman: On a point of Order, I give the floor to the Minister of State for Youth and Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Charest).

Hon. Jean Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

I would not want this speech to go by and at the end, hear the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) refer to an alleged arrogance on this side of the House, when at the end, only a few days before the electoral campaign got under way—

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

The Chairman: Order! I do not consider that to be a point of order. We shall now continue the debate with the Hon. Member for Wild Rose (Mrs. Feltham).

[English]

Ms. Feltham: Mr. Chairman, as a new Member in a riding in Alberta, it gives me great pleasure that my first speech in Parliament will address the important issue of free trade. I would also like to take this opportunity to again thank the people of Wild Rose for placing their faith in me and for electing another Conservative to the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Feltham: The constituency of Wild Rose is appropriately named. The shrub is a hardy flower that grows extensively across the prairies and the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. It flourishes in some of the most adverse conditions, just as the people of Wild Rose have managed to prosper despite the economic ups and downs of the past 15 years.

In the western part of this large riding, the people of Banff, Lake Louise and Canmore have developed a world class tourist centre that attracts not only those who come to view the magnificent physical setting, but also those who come to partake of the varied cultural activities of the Banff School of Fine Arts.

The towns of Bowden, Olds and Didsbury in the north part of the riding service a major grain producing area. In Olds, there is an agriculture college that focuses on teaching young people how to become better farmers and how to compete in a very competitive world.

The eastern part of the sprawling riding contains the wide open ranges necessary for cattle and livestock production, with Strathmore being the largest centre east of Calgary.

Airdrie is a city of 11,000 people and is the central point of our constituency. It is a growing city, but well-planned and forward-looking. Both Airdrie in the north and Cochrane to the west are within 10 miles of Calgary. Yet they could not be called bedroom communities since they not only service the rural agricultural community, but they are also home to the many executives and professionals involved in the petroleum industry. The whole riding, for that matter, has a stake in the petroleum industry, as attested to by the hundreds of oil pumpers covering the landscape.

The people in my riding have always been Conservative when it comes to politics, but when it comes to