

S. O. 21

common problems regardless of the difficulties our two federal Governments are getting us into.

* * *

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—
ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, by 1992 the European Community will remove all the remaining physical, fiscal, and technical barriers to trade in goods and services between its members. This action will create one of the world's formidable trading blocs, which will make Canadian trade with Europe more difficult.

Fortunately, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) anticipated this initiative, and protected Canada by concluding a free trade agreement with the United States. Free trade with the United States will allow Canadian companies access to a market roughly the size of the EEC.

With the removal of frontier controls Canadian industries will have bigger economies of scale, be more competitive, and have more access to capital, which in turn will make our products as competitive as those in Europe.

It is really unfortunate that the Opposition does not realize the importance of the agreement to Canada's future in light of the major economic developments taking place in the world today.

* * *

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT
ON CHICKEN INDUSTRY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House and of all Canadians the serious concerns the Canadian poultry producers and chicken farmers have with respect to the Mulroney trade deal.

Free trade will hurt the Canadian chicken industry. Canada had a healthy chicken industry in the past due to a strong chicken marketing board and a healthy attitude among government officials toward the benefits of this industry to Canada.

Due to the economics of scale it is just not reasonable to think that the Canadian chicken industry, which serves 25 million people in a 4,000-mile corridor, can fairly compete, as

it will be forced to do, with an American industry which has several 4,000-mile corridors serving, on average, 60 million people.

Most of the chicken which will flood the Canadian market, should this trade deal be implemented, will be processed chicken. The future of chicken lies in processed products. By the year 2000, 50 per cent of all chicken will be in processed products. A flooding of the Canadian market by American processed chicken producers will surely destroy our chicken industry.

Therefore, I urge the Government to give the Canadian marketing board the right to put any processed food containing 10 per cent or more chicken content on the import control list.

* * *

TRADE

PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honour to participate in the Sixth Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference in Osaka, Japan, as part of Canada's delegation led by Dr. Bill Saywell of Vancouver.

Much was accomplished at this meeting to further understanding and co-operation among the 17 Pacific members represented, and between the private, government, and academic sectors which make up this tripartite organization.

The economic forecasts for the region were generally optimistic, but can only be realized if substantial progress can be made to strengthen an open world trading system. Certainly an essential priority in co-operation among developed and developing countries is to build consensus in macro-economic policies and to reject protectionist trade policies as remedies for economic problems.

● (1410)

PECC believes the Pacific region has a critical contribution to make to bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion, and particularly urges negotiators to achieve substantial progress on reducing agricultural subsidies.

I was pleased as well that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was cited by the conference as an example of a successful achievement of sub-regional co-operation, the negotiation and implementation experience of which could provide a basis for the general application of new techniques of trade liberalization in the Pacific region and beyond.