

knows that that is occurring. He knows full well that the prices of many farm and horticultural products are depressed. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Such prices are depressed because our farmers work under a seasonal disadvantage, as the minister knows.

Our neighbours to the south can produce their crops and charge high prices. They send the tail end of their production to Canada. They may export products such as peaches, pears, strawberries or what have you. They do not send them in at dump prices, but they do not sell them at the same price as they obtain in their own markets in the United States. Those products enter this country just as our current domestic production is about to reach the Canadian market, and they kill our market. If the minister is not aware of this, then certain people in agriculture, especially those associated with the British Columbia Federation of Agriculture, have been negligent in their duty in not bringing it to his attention.

Mr. Whelan: I can tell the hon. member that they have not been negligent.

Mr. Rose: I am pleased to hear that. This is not the first time I have raised this subject; I have raised it with the minister's predecessor. I am sure the minister is aware of the lengthy resolution passed by the British Columbia Federation of Agriculture. I will not bore the House in reading it in its entirety, but after half a dozen paragraphs beginning with "whereas," it concludes:

Therefore be it resolved that the government of Canada immediately consult with the representatives of the Canadian horticultural industry to formulate a realistic—

It is important to note that word, because the present policy is unrealistic. I continue to read the resolution:

—means of automatic application of surtax protection based on a predetermined import valuation as may be applicable to various Canadian tariff zones.

The minister had the intestinal fortitude to stand up in this House and say that he will not allow cheap exports. That, I think, was a step in the right direction. Let me allude to a small example of what may happen in the field of agriculture. No matter whether you are talking about strawberries, pears, peaches or what have you, these crops in the United States fetch a fair price. However, those crops are grown in advance of our own. An offer for a certain amount of the product is made to certain brokers and that offer has the immediate effect of destroying or undercutting the price of Canadian products.

It is time we decided whether we want a viable agricultural and horticultural industry in Canada. Under present procedures one has to prove injury. By the time one has been able to prove injury, that injury has been done and is not prevented. This has happened over and over again.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): The task force suggested that the fruit and vegetable industry of Canada should be phased out.

Mr. Rose: I think I said earlier to the hon. member for Crowfoot that I feel our agricultural industry forms part of a trade-off. We trade off agricultural benefits in order to obtain for other parts of our economy advantages in the field of exports, or in certain imports. If the minister is

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determined to make changes he will have his work cut out, because he will run up against fixed positions which have been taken not in the past year but for many years. I want the minister to know that I—perhaps I cannot speak for the whole of my party—will support him if he will move in that direction. Proof of injury procedures come too late.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): The minister said in committee the other day that he does not believe in tariffs.

Mr. Rose: He may not believe in tariffs, but unless we are able to provide some kind of protection for our industry we might as well fold it up. Land has become a commodity for sale; farmers are selling it because they cannot make a decent income from it. As a result there is great temptation to subdivide. Who benefits, Mr. Chairman, except a few real estate developers? You must remember that except for 4 per cent of the land in B.C., most of the province consists of rock and Christmas trees. Builders can build on all sorts of ground other than farmland, but that is where they like to build first and the developers grab the flat land first. Just look at the airport development; there is another land grab for you! This time the Department of Transport has grabbed all of Sea Island.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: Once upon a time, Mr. Chairman, I can recall that on the lower mainland of British Columbia there were up to 20 domestic processors in the Okanagan area. They are now all gone, mostly bought out by American firms. Those firms bought the rights to the Canadian label. Actually, one processor who is left in my riding has told me that he needs protection because he cannot compete against imported canned products. He cannot pay Canadian prices for his products and meet competition. The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary may be interested to learn that a processor in my riding can buy peaches from the United States at 50 per cent of the price he would have to pay British Columbia fruit growers. The tail end of the United States production is dumped in this country. He can buy peaches for his canning and processing needs, as I say, for 50 per cent less than he has to pay the B.C. fruit growers.

An hon. Member: That's enough to spoil one's appetite.

Mr. Rose: That might spoil the hon. member's dinner, but it is true. Perhaps he should get up on a point of order, or something. Let him rise on any point; I don't care what it is.

I now wish to move to another topic, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps this is not an agricultural matter although it has implications for agriculture. I am referring to the attitude of the taxation branch to supply and management or production quotas. Hon. members know as well as I do that such boards are going to become more numerous, despite the protestations of the hon. member for Crowfoot. There will be more and more of them because farmers have the right to organize just as any other group of citizens has the right to organize if they so decide by a majority.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): They have the right to produce.