

Income Tax

have. It will be ruinous for processors, farmers and all those who work for combined industries if we do not get it.

As Canadians, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that there must be an element of liberalization of trade which will remove it from the straitjacket in which we once found ourselves, where nothing moved across an international border without a duty being applied. That, sir, is part of our life in the world today. We must also realize that we can only participate in the liberalization of trade up to the point where our industries, and we as a nation, can survive. Agriculture has never asked for 100 per cent of the total market; but it has asked that it have a fair share of the market on a viable basis. The only way this can be obtained is to recognize the needs of the industry when our negotiators conduct their negotiations.

In dealing with the United States, we are dealing with industries which in many instances have farms adjacent to Canadian farms producing the same items. We are dealing with a country which has economy of scale in production and processing. We are dealing with a country which has lower capital costs. If we are to protect our industries, we must have protection at least as great as that which the United States affords its industries. Or, in many instances, we should have an additional 5 per cent to make up for some of the additional costs which our producers experience. It is on this basis that we should negotiate with them.

● (1652)

But as I look at the potato products we seem to be on a unilateral binge to reduce the duty as they come from the United States, without any return in reduction of duty from them. Our negotiators should obtain from our principal trading partners, such as the United States, the European community and Japan, an opportunity which would increase our marketing capability in those countries. I have neither seen nor heard anything from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner), the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Allmand), the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) or anybody else which would indicate we are seeking additional markets in other sectors of the world for our products, that we are seeking the removal of duty barriers or their reduction, or that we are seeking removal of the artificial trade barriers which keep us out of many markets.

We are going down a one-way street. We must get value in return for the things we have given away. In view of the fact that we have had unilateral reductions in duties in several budgets in my short period in this House, I am afraid, sir, that we are going for unilateral reductions again and our industry will once more be stripped of part of the protection which is absolutely necessary for a healthy consumer market, for a healthy agricultural industry and for employment in our processing industry. These are subjects of real importance to this nation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCain: Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely unacceptable that we give anything more in respect of agricultural tariffs, if
[Mr. McCain.]

we do not in turn obtain better trading opportunities with our trading partners. This has been our history. Absolute trade-offs and straight line reductions on imports coming to Canada cannot be tolerated and must not be given. Do not yield until you receive. If necessary, increase the protection on items which are particularly vulnerable to dumping—very low-cost items.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) will exert all the pressure possible to get the committee in place which I proposed the other day. I think it is imperative that the farmer, the negotiator and the parliamentarian sit down around the table to exchange ideas on the needs of the potato industry, the vegetable industry, the fruit industry, the meat industry and the grain industry, so that when those people negotiate they will understand the consequences.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. He may continue with unanimous consent. Is their unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain).

Mr. McCain: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think our negotiators, who are not familiar with agriculture, should be impregnated as best they can be with full knowledge of the consequences of reductions in tariffs on any agricultural product. They should be aware of the consequences of no quota structures for the importation into Canada of meats and other items. They should be aware of the economic importance of agriculture, its employment opportunities and its basic industrial opportunities as an employer in Canada before they negotiate anything away.

The farmers will be able to convince a committee that it is in the best interests of all of Canada's economy, including the consumers, that we produce more, that we process more and consume more Canadian agricultural products under favourable trading conditions in order to create a viable agricultural industry.

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, it is very close to five o'clock, and if possible I would like to have my speech in one place in *Hansard*. I wonder if it would be permissible to call it five o'clock at this point and proceed with private members' hour?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions.

Item No. 2, the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Guay): shall the item stand at the request of the government?

Some hon. Members: Stand.