

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

I am certainly not against trade with the United States but I feel that this deal may have gone too far.

Members can cheer that because that is my feeling as well.

As a farmer I feel that our marketing boards are in danger because no matter how adequately the PCs claim to defend them, the Americans make no bones about wishing to dismantle them. This I believe began to become apparent in the recent GATT talks.

This is a good letter from one of my constituents. He goes on to say:

However even worse than the danger to certain segments of our economy is the over all danger of associating ourselves so closely with a country that is 10 times our size. We will be swallowed like a cat swallows a mouse.

The election campaign brought to my attention many things to which my friends and colleagues from the Alberta area should pay some attention. The leader of my party in Saskatchewan spent a lot of time in my constituency and spoke to many different groups. One of the stories he was relating to the people in my constituency referred to Alberta farmers, Alberta ranchers. This is the story: One rancher has 100 head of cattle on his ranch and another rancher has 10 head of cattle. The farmer with 100 head of cattle leans over the fence and says to his neighbour with 10 head of cattle: "Why don't we take down this fence and let our cattle share all this land?" I do not think there is a single Alberta rancher, if he had 10 head of cattle, that would tear down that fence and allow his neighbour with 100 head of cattle to go through his pasture and let the cows eat up all the grass that was there for his cattle. That is what this free trade is about. That is the sort of thing Americans are asking Canadians, with the 10 head of cattle, to do.

I would like to read some more from my constituent's letter. He writes:

I wish this free trade deal could be stopped. I don't think that it can, but at least I believe that it is going to have to be watched very closely to protect ourselves as Canadians.

Thank you for attention and good luck in your deliberations in Ottawa.

This letter comes from a person who I have never met before. It arrived in my mail today. It gives me the courage and stamina to stay here and talk to my friends across the way.

I also want to bring to the attention of the House an article that appeared in the newspaper this morning. Many Members will have read it already. It deals with a Canadian study that says that Canada lags far behind other countries in the export of items such as bread, cookies, and beer. This study was done by the Grains

2000 group. I do not know too much about it, but I believe that as long as we have free trade we will never be able to develop and continue those processing industries which use agricultural products to improve our agricultural industry and exports of agricultural products in Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. I thought there was a tradition in this House that new members were given the courtesy of the House to complete their speeches. I would ask Hon. Members, including Ministers, to respect that tradition.

**Mr. Taylor:** I appreciate the interjection of my colleague, Mr. Chairman, unlike the interjection of Members opposite. I want to get back to the comments made this morning, because they were made in the context of this debate by the Member from Brampton who said that his Party had done so much for agriculture over the last four years.

First, our farm community, according to the 1986 census, is getting older, farms are getting bigger, and land is not worth as much as it was in 1984. Quite a number of things should be brought to the attention of this House, particularly as we look at the Province of Saskatchewan. We are talking about an increase of 35 per cent just in the last year in farm bankruptcies in the Province of Saskatchewan, the highest percentage in the Canadian context. We have farm income that although it is higher than ever is supported mostly by government payments because the price that is paid for the commodities on the international market, not supported by this Government, is down. The total net income of farmers right across the country has declined. In Saskatchewan it is some 47 per cent over the last few years. These things indicate that the farming sector, particularly in Saskatchewan, is not supported by this Government.

Between May 1987 and May 1988 the Canadian farm sector lost 24,000 jobs on the Prairies alone. The recent drought, the worst since the 1930s, scorched millions of acres of crop land and cattle range. This Government in the election campaign promised a drought relief program for the drought stricken farmers of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta. They forgot to talk to their partners in cost sharing of this program, the provinces, and now the provinces are backing out and the program is in jeopardy. It did not consult with provincial counterparts before making a cost-shared promise during the election campaign.