

Supply

I was very concerned when the Minister for International Trade said this afternoon that the ice cream and yogurt panel decision would be treated very similarly in the United States to a dispute the United States had dispute with Australia over sugar, they did accept their GATT panel report. It sounds like the minister is also going to accept the GATT panel report on ice cream and yoghurt which would be a devastating move for our industry in this country. It would mean that 60 per cent of all processed dairy products would flow easily into Canada if there is the same decision as that taken in the United States.

Also, I was concerned about his comments that Canada would not reject out of hand the use of tariffication, because tariffication means exactly what has been done under ice cream and yogurt where it starts with a tariff that is reduced over a 10-year period. The minister's comment about aggregate measure of support being a useful mechanism is also of great concern because essentially what the Americans and most of the Cairns group will be trying to do is reduce the price of our supply management commodities to the world price, that is, the American price.

I think the concerns expressed by the hon. member for Cardigan about the government's moves on supply management are well taken.

Mr. Holtmann: Mr. Speaker, I listened intently to the member for Cardigan. He reiterated that this government was undermining programs for Canadian farmers, so I have a few questions for him. He might want to have a conference with his colleagues from that side of the House because in the previous session it was his party that voted against \$500,000 for capital gains exemptions to farmers. It was the Liberals who voted against \$92 million for drought relief for western farmers. He might want to question why they voted against such a measure. They also voted against some \$200 million to meet the deficit of the Canadian Wheat Board. With all due respect, there he is standing in his place saying that we have undermined programs for western farmers, but in every case it was his party that voted against significant benefits for western farmers.

What about Bill C-92 where there was legislation to improve the operations of the Wheat Board, and again it was his party that voted against that legislation.

Mr. MacAulay: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member. Just for an example, let me state what we voted against in this budget. The government wished to withdraw \$200 million from crop insurance; grain and flour transportation, \$60 million; rail and branch line rehabilitation programs, \$48 million; grain and crop advance programs, \$54 million; dairy export programs, \$12 million; commodity based loan program, \$15 million; Canadian Dairy Commission, \$10 million. I would like to remind my hon. colleague from across the floor that the free trade agreement is destroying agriculture in Canada, and if we lose supply management, we have no dairy industry, which is the backbone of agriculture in Atlantic Canada. I used the Advance Payments for Crops Act a number of years as a farmer, and I am well aware of what a benefit it is to agriculture and to seed producers. Even if you do not use the program, if the farmer who needs the money gets the advance interest free, it keeps the product off the market which is a major asset to marketing.

• (1720)

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in condemning this government's actions and that party for its policies on agriculture and trade. Everyone remembers almost a year ago when the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister for International Trade went travelling throughout this country telling Canadians how free trade would be the best thing they ever voted for and how it would be the greatest thing ever for our agricultural community. Well, we recently found out that this in fact is not the case. With all the recent problems we have been having in the pork industry, in the dairy industry with ice cream and yogurt, clearly this government was less than truthful in what it was saying this past election.

As agriculture is very important to my riding, I take this debate very seriously. I want to outline for members why I believe our agricultural industry is slowly but surely being destroyed by this Minister of Agriculture and his government. It is clear to me that we are facing a new era in agriculture. I would go so far as to say we are facing a new type of Canada under this government.

Agriculture in Canada faces its greatest challenge in recent history. This apprehension has increased in the days following the free trade agreement and following the recent negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Decisions that have been made for us