Supply

Obviously, because of the fact that this wheat was higher quality and that it was readily available through the Canadian Wheat Board, the Canadian Wheat Board and the farmers were able to fill this market. It seems a sad commentary, after being led to believe that the free trade agreement was going to open up these markets in the United States and secure the access to these markets for Canadian products, that all of a sudden we have had one countervail action on Canadian pork moving into the United States, on live hogs themselves, then later another one on the dressed pork.

When we asked the American representatives about this, they said that of course they have the power to do this under the omnibus trade bill because it supersedes the free trade agreement. The free trade agreement was not ratified until after the omnibus trade bill came into effect.

So we have those actions against our pork and our live hogs, the threatened action against our Durum wheat producers, and still another one that is being talked about toward Canadian beef going into the United States. Yet I have not heard one word from any of the ministers on the other side of this House as to what action they are going to take against the United States or, in fact, what laws the U. S. changed to adhere to the free trade agreement.

I am shocked that a government of a country with the resources that we have in Canada would allow itself to be manoeuvred into a position where we would find ourselves shut off from these markets with the Americans, in addition threatening countervail action that was supposed to have been removed by the free trade agreement.

I am also rather shocked when I read the various accounts of what is happening in the GATT negotiations. We are hearing various buzz words. One that is of primary concern to me is the buzz word "tariffication". If we ask for the meaning of tariffication, some of the negotiators and people in the civil service tell us that tariffication means taking away all import restrictions and barriers that perhaps are not visible but are there, some by legislation and some by statute, and replacing them with tariffs. Then of course the next step, if they do this, will be to negotiate the tariffs downward step by step until there is free movement of product across these borders.

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In all seriousness, while it may sound exciting to hear people saying "yes, we can compete", we have to realize that there is no level playing field because mother nature herself has dictated that that is not the case. In Texas, for example, they can grow up to three crops a year. California can grow three crops of tomatoes a year; in Ontario we can grow one. So naturally we can guess where the products are going to be grown if we go toward the route of tariffication and negotiate away all subsidies.

Canada has tremendous potential and expertise in agricultural production, but we must realize that we are tempered by the climate. In that context, no country should ever allow itself to be put in a position where it cannot produce its own food because it has been traded away.

I had the honour last Friday of speaking to Dr. John Kenneth Galbraith, one of the foremost economists of the world. He said:

I very much think that in Canada, and equally in the United States, we have a cultural identity which identifies itself in the family farm.

He went on to say:

I have always felt as a broad rule that agriculture must be under the constraints of production control or marketing boards. It is the nature of the agriculture market, as distinct from General Motors or (other large corporations), that there is a total absence of control of total output. Such control is essential to agriculture.

Yet we have a government over here that systematically starts to take away the underpinnings of the various marketing structures that have served this country so well over the last number of years, that were put in place by various governments, and that have been the envy of producers of the world. In fact, it has been referred to as the most sophisticated marketing system of any country in the world. At no time have we contributed to world surpluses of any of those commodities that are under that system of planned production.

I just want to compare what is happening here. For example, in the dairy industry we have our production under control through a series of planned production, for both industrial and fluid milk markets, which has been very successful. To compare that to what they have in the United States, at the present time there are four or five states that are facing acute shortages of milk. Georgia, a large producer, is now producing half of what it needs. Alabama and Tennessee are short of product. All of the east coast of the United States has shortages. Even New York State, a major producing state within the United States, is very short of milk at the present time. Even the State of Michigan is short in the area north and west of Lansing. The price is only now starting to