

the United States with reference to certain things which we were going to secure.

We have fulfilled each and every one of the commitments which we made to the country, and laid out in this House a motion on behalf of the Government put forward by my seatmate, the Minister for International Trade, on March 16.

We indicated that under a bilateral trade arrangement our agri-food marketing system would remain intact. We succeeded in that.

Mr. Boudria: No, that's not true either.

Mr. Wise: We said that we would maintain those underpinnings which were necessary for the day-to-day operation of supply management. We delivered on that commitment as well.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Wise: Yes we did, Mr. Speaker. They say that we did not and that is an indication to me that they do not understand the supply management system of this country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman could ask the next question.

EFFECT ON HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, by withdrawing seasonal protection for our horticulture industry, that is, the growers of vegetables and fresh fruit, and our flower industry, the Minister has allowed Canadian agriculture to be thrown into a free market with the growers in the southern United States.

We have incessantly asked the Minister for International Trade and the Deputy Prime Minister for answers on the effect of this trade deal on our farmers and our food processors. We have received no concrete answers for the thousands of Canadian farmers.

Ms. Copps: Right on. We want answers.

● (1425)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We have received no answers for the 230,000 workers in our food processing industry in Canada. That is not just irresponsible, it is absolutely frightening.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Come on, ask a specific question.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I suppose I should not be surprised because this is the first Government in Canadian history that contemplates putting a tax on food.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is hesitant to interrupt on a lead question, but the preamble is long. Would the right hon. gentleman put his question, please?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Does the Government not care whether food for Canadians is grown and processed in Canada, and if it does care, why did it sign this agreement with the United States?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as a fifth generation dairy farmer I am disappointed in the right hon. gentleman because I really thought he had a greater in-depth knowledge of Canadian agriculture.

We indicated when we entered into the agreement that we would reserve the right in Canada of Canadian producers to decide what marketing system best suits their own needs. We also fulfilled that commitment.

The hon. gentleman raises the issue of horticulture. We have a better deal for the Canadian horticultural industry over the next 20 years under the bilateral trade arrangement than it has had in the last ten.

The hon. gentleman should know that the law officers of the Crown have ruled *ultra vires* our ability to impose and to utilize in the interests of Canadian fruit and vegetable growers regulations such as Sections 56 and 57, and Section 61(1).

This agreement will give us the authority to proceed with the appropriate amendments to the CAPS Act which will provide us with the required legislative framework to impose regulations such as Sections 56, 57, and 61(1), which, for the hon. gentleman's information, are in the interest of the Canadian fruit and vegetable growers in order to provide that seasonal protection during time of harvest. We have not had that in the past and we have suffered because of the inaction of that former Government in the many years it was in office. As a result of the trade arrangement, we can go forward.

In addition—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Wise: —the horticultural industry in Canada will have that protection for 20 years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MACDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, may I say to the Minister that only a Tory Government could achieve the destruction of the family farm—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: —at the same time as totally jeopardizing a \$40 billion food processing industry that provides employment for hundreds of thousands of Canadians. Only a Tory Government could accomplish so much at one time in the destruction of the Canadian economy.