

Government Orders

move grain directly from the prairies to the ports of Halifax and Saint John.

In the perspective of the Atlantic provinces, I am sure those proposals make a lot of sense, but from a federal perspective they show just how foolish the federal government is in cancelling the at and east subsidy. Why would anyone want to drive Atlantic Canada to the European markets to buy supplies when those supplies are already available right here in Canada and that has been going on for years and years? Why would anyone, through government policy, want U.S. corn to be bought which would only place farmers at a disadvantage in this country? There is something terribly wrong with this. It makes one wonder whether the government has gone completely mad. It is as if the government has taken a huge knife and cut the country in half. It is as if it wants to break the bonds that tie our regions together and drive them into the arms of our competitors.

There is nothing in Bill C-26 for national unity. There is nothing for Halifax, nothing for Saint John, nothing for any part of Atlantic Canada. There is certainly nothing for anyone except ideologically driven Tory ministers who are hell-bent on wrecking venerable Canadian institutions and venerable Canadian programs, programs which over time have proven their worth and value, but they have to go. That is what Tory ideology says and that is what Tory theology says.

Let me point out that these cutbacks, and this one in particular, are coming at time which could not be worse. It is a time when the Americans, our competitors, our adversaries in the marketplace, are putting in place a \$900 million export subsidy program. That will not help us. That will help American farmers. Can you imagine how absurd the situation is. We are going absolutely in the wrong direction and farmers are left completely vulnerable because of government policy.

• (1230)

When you think about it, it all fits a pattern. The Americans raid our traditional grain markets and make it more difficult for our pork and beef producers to gain access to the U.S. market. On the other hand, the Americans are demanding that they flog their ice cream and yogurt in our markets.

What does our government do to counteract this? It cuts farm support programs by \$399 million in the budget of last spring. It takes oats away from the Canadian Wheat Board. It has threatened the supply-management system in the country and those of us who are most pessimistic, particularly if this Tory reign goes on much longer, believe there will not be a supply-management system left in this country.

Is it any wonder that we are deathly afraid of what might happen in the subsidy negotiations in the next few years? Will there be anything left? Can you imagine a worse fate than leaving subsidy negotiations in the hands of the people over there? Their idea of negotiation is to give things away. If an agreement is consummated that way, then it is a success. That is not success, unless success is measured in destroying programs and destroying institutions.

The Tory approach to tackling problems raises fundamental questions. What will they do when they finish selling off the family silverware? By that I mean, what will they do after removing the underpinnings of the farm community? What will they do after they finish privatizing unemployment insurance, decimating VIA Rail, closing rural post offices and ending universality? What will they do after their wrecking job?

When they discover after this decimation that there are still problems of disparity, of poverty, of inflation, and still problems of unemployment, what will they do then? What will the Tories do when they have given away the store completely?

Madam Speaker, there was a report in one of the weekend papers that in the coming budget—which will be delivered in this House in approximately four hours—the Minister of Finance would announce a sell-off of about \$1 billion in federal properties.

I do not know if that is going to happen. If the government were to do that, it would suggest to me that Tory economic policy is just one step away from rigor mortis. We know that when the fellow begins to sell off properties, everything in the house and in the garage, and sell off all the tools, you know he is just one step away from bankruptcy. That is the status of Tory economic policy right now. After five and a half years of Tory rule, there is total and complete economic mismanagement.