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plan at that time was to continue to employ the workers affected under a contract of service to the Cape Breton Development Corporation in order that they might be eligible to continue to earn entitlement to various benefits.

The fact is that these individuals will never be rehired by the Corporation but must continue to have unemployment insurance premiums deducted from their income. In addition, these UIC deductions, which in some cases date back 13 or 14 years, are taking much needed income from those Canadians who need it most. Conversely, other individuals under different and new pre-retirement plans do not have this deduction from their income.

I ask the Government to reconsider this unfair situation and treat these needy citizens with compassion and dignity. In other words, stop deducting unemployment insurance premiums from their income and reimburse them for the money they have lost.

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[Translation]

YOUTH**CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY FREE TRADE**

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, the challenge presented by free will have to be taken up by our youth. We accepted the previous challenges. Our generation and the previous ones have transformed this country into an industrialized, rich and modern nation. Are we going to ask your youth to rest on our accomplishments! It would suicidal. There is a market to conquer, a country to build. This is a challenge for our young people. They are just as intelligent, willing and eager to challenge the world as we were. We must give them that opportunity, the chance to think and act in terms of a continent and the world. Why limit ourselves to our neighbourhood, when our skills, qualifications and values are in demand on every continent, Mr. Speaker. Free trade is the future and the prosperity of a people, our people.

Experts from the Quebec Department of Agriculture have said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that our family farm will not suffer extensive changes. I suggest to union leaders that they should not interpret the agreement in their usual negative way as, in fact, our marketing boards and other programs have been protected.

• (1415)

[English]

AGRICULTURE**GRAIN FARMERS—DEFICIENCY PAYMENT**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, Canadian grain farmers are beginning to worry about whether they will receive any government assistance by way of deficiency payments this year. Farmers have good reason to be worried.

After meeting with farm leaders in Winnipeg in August, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) strongly supported the CFA proposal for a 1987-88 deficiency payment. However, last Friday in the House the Minister backed away from this strong support. He said he might mention the CFA proposal if and when he takes the deficiency payment proposal to Cabinet.

The Minister says that he might have a deficiency payment this year. Why does the Government not act? Why is it stalling? After all, the Government knows the views of farmers. It has consulted them. The Government has some experience in putting together a deficiency program.

With each new day of delay on this issue, farmers begin to wonder if the part of the free trade deal which says unsubsidized grain will be able to move freely between Canada and the U.S. means an end to deficiency payments for the current crop year.

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TRADE**SUPPORT FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT**

Mr. John Gormley (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Canadian negotiators on their successful negotiations for a free trade arrangement with the United States.

Free trade is good news, particularly for western Canada. It will improve the market in the oil and energy sector. Free trade will reduce input costs for agriculture while strengthening farm markets.

Free trade will also mean the creation of some 350,000 new jobs for Canadians over the next eight years, from which all provinces will benefit. It will boost real wages, increase production, stimulate business investment and revitalize industry.

The free trade agreement is one of which we can be proud for more reasons than the obvious economic benefits. Canada's cultural sovereignty remains protected, social and regional development policies remain intact, marketing boards are not