

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit beside an Australian and he informed me that the Australian government does not have subsidies. They are playing hardball with their farmers and their farmers are in a difficult situation. They have taken the effort to go into the European countries and try to educate them to the fact that these people are actually paying too much for their goods.

I do not know what we can do to convince the marketplace, the European market in particular, that it is time that they grow up and get into this. I would imagine that it is a mindset. If history serves me right, that mindset goes back to after World War II, when they decided that they no longer wanted to be dependent upon somebody else to provide their food. It is time that the whole world community understand that situations like that are quite unlikely to happen. Maybe it is possible that when we have the opportunity to lower these prices and talk about the level playing field, we could possibly be providing food to Third World countries at a cost acceptable to them.

Mr. Crawford: We would go under.

Mr. Bjornson: Only by hard work and good common-sense farming we will not go under. We can put the crop into the ground and collect it and put it into the marketplace on a level playing field and compete with anybody in the world. We just have to have the opportunity to do it. You are in the industry. Would you not like to have that opportunity?

Mr. Crawford: Certainly.

Mr. Bjornson: Right. I think that is what we are doing. We are going to be open-minded. We are trying to create that. We want the GATT to go forward. That is one of the policies of this government and I think we are reflecting it very well. We are not stepping backward. We are trying to step forward.

We should look at the subsidies for the European countries just 10 years ago in 1979-1980. The EEC was a net importer of 12 million tonnes of wheat and coarse

grains. Next year, it is expected that they are going to be a net exporter of 27 million tonnes of wheat and coarse grains, which is a turnaround of 39 million tonnes. In order to maintain their agricultural sector in the European countries, they are providing more money. As they provide more money, the farmers grow more crop, so all of a sudden they are getting into our markets. It is only because of the subsidies that are doing that. If they had to put their crops in the ground, pay their taxes and do everything that our farmers have to do, I am sure there would be a completely different attitude. They would not be rushing out and doing all that.

I do not know what the answer is to resolve that problem. I am hoping that sometime in the near future the European Community will take a look at that. Maybe when Europe '92 comes into play they will sit down and take a long, hard look at how this is going to come together. Maybe that is the time it will happen.

It is most important, as we are working together with this government and the policies we are putting forward, that we are ready to react. We want to anticipate what is going to happen and when that time comes we will react. We cannot be sitting back worrying about 1990 and 1992 and finding out that we are left behind the pack again.

Once again, the attitudes put forward by the Minister of Trade, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Grains and Oilseeds are the proper attitudes. Maybe there is going to be some tough slugging. Right now it is tough slugging. There is a billion dollar rain in western Canada right now and I understand it is coming into Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 6 o'clock p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 81(17), proceedings on the motion have expired.

Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.00 p.m.