

Armenian Canadians in Don Valley North and other ridings in Canada are in a profound state of shock. While they, many thousands of Canadians, and the Canadian Government have responded with generosity, massive reconstruction efforts will be necessary.

I urge the Government of Canada to respond with the greatest generosity and compassion to this crisis and to advise the Soviet Union that Canadians would welcome such refugees as the Soviet Union may be prepared to grant exit visas to, in the face of this enormous calamity.

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CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT MARKETING SYSTEM

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, the free trade agreement in its present form is a direct attack on the supply management system of marketing, a system that has served Canadian farmers since it was introduced in the early 1970s.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Government gave assurances over the past few months that the supply management system of marketing as defined under Article 11 of the GATT will be protected under the Free Trade Agreement. But we have also heard, Mr. Speaker, that the Americans would like to see an end to the supply management system as we know it here in Canada.

The constituents of Haldimand-Norfolk, who include many supply-managed farmers, are genuinely concerned that supply management is threatened, not only under the GATT, but within the free trade deal itself. Clearly, the Bill, in its present form, does not protect these farmers.

Our Party, Mr. Speaker, has proposed amendments to this deal which we believe protect farmers. In fact, Mr. Speaker, our Party is committed to protecting all Canadians from the ill effects of this agreement. We will be the guardians of Canadian sovereignty, and we put the Government on notice that we will not stand for any decline in the farm economy.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

Mr. Ken G. Hughes (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honour of attending the GATT talks as a member of Canada's parliamentary delegation.

Many Canadians involved in agriculture, including my constituents, were deeply disappointed with the lack of concrete results at the Montreal meeting.

The future of many agricultural industries in Canada is at stake in these talks. We must reduce subsidies to agriculture world-wide. Canada, as a member of the Cairns Group, as well as Japan and the U.S., were there prepared to negotiate. Where were the Europeans?

We must continue to pressure the Europeans in particular, as well as the Americans, to come to their senses and end the subsidy war.

As a new Member representing MacLeod in southern Alberta, I welcome the chance to defend aggressively the interests of Canadian agriculture.

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[*Translation*]

POLITICAL PARTIES

PEOPLE'S CHOICE OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, last November 21, Canadians had to choose the leader and the political party best suited to govern the country for the next four years.

Well, Mr. Speaker, their choice was clear and unequivocal. Basing themselves on the record of the Progressive Conservative government from 1984 to 1988, they once more chose the team best suited to lead the country, the team of Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party, thus giving them a second majority mandate, an historic event in the Canadian political life of the twentieth century.

The environment, implementation of free trade, national unity, security for our senior citizens, these will be the priorities of the government which I represent in this House.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow citizens for having entrusted me with a second mandate. They can rest assured that their Member of