

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

I mention that to illustrate that there have been pioneers in the dairy industry in the riding of Leeds—Grenville. We are trying to protect the dairy industry. The people of Leeds—Grenville sent me here, in large measure by support from the dairy industry, to speak for them.

Great advances have been made in the dairy industry. No longer is the dairy farmer the man standing under the apple tree wearing a straw hat. It is now a much more sophisticated industry. The dairy farmer no longer goes up the lane with his collie dog to bring in the cows.

I am not against the milk marketing boards. They have stabilized the industry. I know what used to happen in the dairy industry. When prices fluctuated and increased, milk flooded the markets, people got out of the industry. Then prices would escalate because too many got out, so we were on a roller-coaster. How could a man advance his industry, buy a tractor, and have any consistency in his level of income in order to pay for the tractor? The milk marketing boards have put some stabilization in the industry, although I am a free enterpriser.

I am as concerned as was the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie), and disappointed that at the GATT round in Montreal absolutely no progress was made when talking about world subsidies for food. It bothers me to visualize how Third World countries will ever be able to afford basic food at the largely elevated prices. The food is too expensive for them. Perhaps we can determine some third level of pricing so that we can supply the Third World countries. In the direction we are going at the moment, I do not see how it is at all possible.

I know those who have all the answers will say that GATT protects our dairy industry. Perhaps it will. I hope they are correct. However, the Canadian dairy industry should not take on the United States dairy industry in a bilateral fashion, because the Canadian dairy industry will lose.

Two months ago yesterday six inches of snow fell in the Ottawa area. That happened on Saturday, and at 10 a.m. on Monday morning I visited a farm. I wondered why the young cattle were up at the barn and all the cows were in the barn at ten o'clock in the morning. The farmer told me that the winter season had now started, on October 22, and that he was using his winter silage as of that day. He said that his pastures had an excessive amount of moisture, and that he could not put the cattle out because they would punch the pastures full of holes,

and his problems were just getting more complicated. If a farmer starts using his winter silage on October 22, he will run out of winter silage by about March 22, and then he has to use expensive grains to feed his cattle to carry them over to the time when they can return to the pastures.

Weather and soil conditions were not on the table. They were not negotiated, and they never will be. That was out of reach. That is why I am saying, do not let the dairy industry of Canada take on the dairy industry of the United States, because we will lose. Approximately 40 miles as the crow flies from where I live one could find a herd of 1,500 milking cattle. There are two international bridges in my riding approximately 40 kilometres apart, however if one wanted to travel by water one could go a little quicker than that.

The dairy industry in Leeds—Grenville was watching that situation with great care. One can approach an international bridge and be golfing in 12 hours. One can travel to where it is warm in 12 hours. No one can tell me that there is not going to be a temptation, if nothing else, to bring fresh milk over those bridges. One tank truck contains 80,000 litres of milk. With a pup trailer added, enough milk could be transported to give every man, woman and child in the riding of Leeds-Grenville one litre of milk. One truck load of milk will give one litre to every man, woman and child in Leeds—Grenville.

Members opposite cannot say that the dairy industry had no right or reason to be afraid. Of course, it had. Remember that the dairy industry is a private enterprise. Usually the dairy farmer is a small businessman. Too often I have heard it said that if an individual is in trouble because of free trade, do not worry about it, your industry will look after you. If it fails, the Government will look after you. Who is going to look after those small dairy farmers? Usually it is a man, his wife, and perhaps a son and his wife, or two sons and their wives. Without exaggeration, there are \$500,000 or \$600,000 sitting around that barnyard. Perhaps some other uses could be found for tractors, or some other use might be found for a truck. However, much of that equipment was designed for a special reason and it cannot be converted to other uses.

If the Government has that type of money to help people out, do not forget that the dairy farmer will need some of that assistance as soon as the deal starts to slip, and I am sure that it will.