

Private Members' Business

No one can tell me that \$66 billion of U.S. agricultural subsidies indicate there is something efficient about that particular form of marketing or doing business there. Indeed I would argue that the reverse is true. With our system only 7 per cent of income to dairy farmers comes from governments. That is indeed far more efficient.

We all know that the price of milk in both countries is substantially the same. I know someone will phone me up tomorrow and say: "Mr. Boudria, we saw this on television. We want you to know that last week milk in Massena was selling for one-third less than it sells for in Cornwall".

Of course they forget to say that was a loss leader designed to get people to cross the border to do a little bit of cross-border shopping and has nothing to do with the average price of milk sold in that area because it is substantially similar. I enumerated statistics some months ago comparing Detroit, Windsor, Cornwall and Massena and a number of other border communities in both Canada and the United States.

I think I argued at that point, and quite successfully if I may be so presumptuous as to suggest, that the prices were essentially the same in both countries notwithstanding the fact that the Canadian dairy producers get very little direct assistance from government as opposed to what they do south of the border.

The difference is that the stability that exists in the system here has been good for the Canadian dairy industry.

[Translation]

That is why I support Canadian farmers and especially the marketing boards that want to preserve supply management systems in Canada, including my own province, Ontario, for dairy farmers.

I must say today that I am very concerned. This may be my last chance to make a speech in the House before the election. Next week the House will probably adjourn and is not expected to come back. Those members who are re-elected by their constituents some time next fall will come back.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell for sending me

to this, the highest court in the land, as their elected representative.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we are nearing the end of this session and the GATT negotiations are continuing. I must say that I am concerned about the future of supply management. A few weeks ago I had a chance to talk to the delegates and presidents of Venezuela and Colombia, both members of GATT. I must say that neither country supports our position on supply management. I know the government keeps saying it wants to preserve article XI of GATT, which allows us to have supply management, but I am not at all convinced that the other countries support us in this.

[English]

In the event that I do not have an opportunity to speak again in this Parliament, it is only a week from its adjournment, I know that you, Sir, may not be a candidate for office. I am going to take this opportunity to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, my strong and sincere best wishes on whatever future plans you have.

I have particular affection for this particular Speaker. He was a member when I was on staff on Parliament Hill many years ago.

I do wish for you, Sir, that the future will bring many good things to you.

I also take this opportunity to say to my colleagues in this House in all parties how much I have enjoyed working with them. Of course it may not be a surprise to hear me say that I hope I am back to discuss issues again in this Chamber with many of the members who will be re-elected and new ones who will be coming in. It may not shock anyone to hear that I hope many of those new ones will be of my political affiliation.

Perhaps the day will come soon when I will have the opportunity to address the Speaker from the other side of the House. I hope that opportunity does come soon because I have been in opposition for many years.

With that I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and say to all my colleagues and our staff here in the Chamber how much I have enjoyed being a member for all these years. I do hope I am back again to continue my work on behalf of my constituents.