

are not willing to give up their right to produce as much food as they can within their own boundaries. They will consider subsidies to achieve that result. While the subject may be permitted to go on to the agenda, I do not hold any great hope that we will see coming out of those talks in the immediate future any addressing of the problem that subsidies raise for a country like ours depending on exports. I see the Europeans and even the Americans being anything but free traders as in the coming round.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask my hon. colleague whether he wishes the item taken off the agenda?

Mr. Althouse: I did not say that, Mr. Speaker. I simply raised a caution that having it there was not likely to produce any results in this round.

Mr. Halliday: Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Hon. Member for Humbolt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) indicate the importance of biotechnology in the agricultural field and that that is what we should be pursuing. I was rather alarmed though that he did not give the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) recognition in the establishment of a special board on technology and industrial innovation which will do exactly what the Member is saying is absent from the Speech from the Throne.

In my view, perhaps the most important single item in the whole Throne Speech was the announcement that the Prime Minister now views science, technology and innovation as being the key to our future. Surely the Hon. Member for Humbolt—Lake Centre would agree within the ambit of items dealt with by that board that biotechnology will be one of them.

Mr. Althouse: Mr. Speaker, that is what I was attempting to get across in my speech. In that particular part of my speech I pointed out the four agencies to which my friend, the Hon. Member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday), has just referred. The technology we have been pursuing has essentially been an energy based technology. We have to wean ourselves from that kind of technology if agriculture is to meet the kind of competition which the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) and the Prime Minister have been talking about when they go into ecstasies about free trade talks.

I would be more comfortable about these boards being established if I were not seeing research into that kind of technology being dropped through the last series of budget cuts.

There has been no decision to replace the Poultry Research Centre at Kentville, Nova Scotia which burned down, even though it has been gone for a couple of years. That institute did a great deal of technological research into biological functions. It is not clear at all whether the Department of Agriculture and the Government are intending to replace it and to keep it out in that very important region of Atlantic Canada.

The Address—Mr. Boudria

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria).

[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to take part in this debate on the Speech from the Throne of the second session of the 33rd Parliament. First of all I should like to congratulate the Speaker as well as all other Members who will have the privilege of occupying the Chair during this session. More particularly I want to commend all Hon. Members for the great wisdom they displayed when they selected the Speaker of the House in the course of the quite different election we had this week. I believe it was a very positive exercise, very different from what we had in the past. We may have experienced minor difficulties, for instance the fact that ballot counts took too much time, but still I think it is a good system which might be slightly improved but not radically changed. It was a very democratic exercise, and it was obviously good since we have chosen, in my view, a Speaker of outstanding quality, and I want to repeat the congratulatory remarks I made a moment earlier.

[English]

As you know, Mr. Speaker, in September, 1984, the citizens of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell elected me to represent them in the Parliament of our country. I have said it before and I will repeat it again, that the greatest honour any Canadian could have is to be here in this place representing his or her fellow citizens. The constituency that I represent is not far from Parliament Hill. At its closest point it is some 12 miles and at its farthest point probably some 80 to 85 miles.

[Translation]

It is a vast rural riding. The western part of the riding is home to a large number of public servants, the region of Orléans, while the rest of the riding is primarily rural, except for a few urban centres such as Hawkesbury, Alexandria, Vankleek Hill and Rockland.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that the people who live in the rural reaches of my riding have suffered a lot in recent years. This is particularly the case of smaller municipalities in the eastern part of the riding, especially those where textiles and other industries were major employers. They had a hard time during the recent economic recession.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the agricultural community has been particularly hard hit.

[English]

If agriculture has suffered, there have at least been some sectors of the agricultural economy that have survived better than others. Coming to mind, of course, is the area under supply management. It has had at least a degree of certainty of revenue in the past. It has done relatively well compared to other agricultural sectors. I would not want to leave this House