

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, that is certainly an interesting question. I never thought that there would ever be a Tory with the nerve to ask me to recite into the record how many promises the Prime Minister has breached. However, when given the chance I will try to do that. I am willing to give it a try. I have here the book of 338 Tory promises. I just happen to have a copy here. I may have referred to this document before. Let me start here under "A" as in agriculture. No. 1:

Abolish the capital gains tax on the sale of farm property for continued agricultural purposes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: That promise was only half breached, of course, because the Tories put in place a maximum. Promise No. 3:

Allow the Farm Credit Corporation to offer agri-bonds so farmers will have access to reasonably-priced funds.

Mr. Thacker: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. I just want to ask the Hon. Member this. Was it not the Liberal Government in Ontario that, the minute it was elected, imposed capital gains tax on its farmers?

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, I recall in the mid-1970s when the Conservative Government in Ontario imposed a speculation tax which also applied to farmland. Let me continue. Another breached promise is here: "Revise Section 31 of the Income Tax Act"—

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Have you read the tax reform paper? You do not read well.

Mr. Caldwell: I rise on a point of order because the Hon. Member has indicated he was going to read some of the promises that we made during the election. I notice that he started out with the first one and then went to the third. Could it be that the second promise is with respect to the elimination of federal sales tax on gasoline products and fuel oils?

Mr. Mayer: That the Liberals put in place.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) has the floor.

Mr. Boudria: Let me continue, Madam Speaker. Another promise is here. It states that it will reduce cheese imports by 20 per cent. Is that not a cute promise? We have just signed a treaty that will have the effect of increasing imports of certain dairy products from other countries. Cheese imports have not been reduced by 20 per cent. They are still at exactly the same amount. That is another breached promise.

The Member for London—Middlesex (Mr. Clifford) asked me specifically what the problems were in regard to the dairy sector as they pertain to the Prime Minister's trade deal with his friend Ronnie Reagan. Here are the problems as they affect supply management in the dairy industry.

Supply

There are two products which were under the protection of tariffs for which the tariffs have been eliminated. I see the Hon. Member is not paying attention. We will be asking questions later, Madam Speaker, so you should tell him to sharpen up. What we have is that these tariffs have been eliminated. This could cause an influx of yogurt and ice cream from the United States. If the Hon. Member says that not much milk is used for that, 4.6 million hectolitres are used annually in the production of ice cream and 4.5 million hectolitres are used in the production of yogurt. That is considerable potential damage to the industry.

I say to the Hon. Member across the way that one of the three fundamental underpinnings of supply management has been damaged by the Prime Minister. He has breached a promise to the dairy producers of Canada. He owes them an apology.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Read more of the book.

Mr. Brightwell: Madam Speaker, I have sat here and I have heard the statements made by the Hon. Member. I agree they had some basis in fact, but a great many simply did not. For instance, he mentions the fact that this trade agreement will increase the amount of cheese that will come into Canada. That is simply a fabrication. This gentleman has made it up in his mind, probably because he does not understand what is going on. We maintained our promise. We protected the supply management group in the dairy industry and the poultry industry. Perhaps the Hon. Member does not think in modern times because he talks about milking cows with a three-legged stool. In modern days they put a machine on the cows and milk them that way. I think his thinking is in about the same category as that of the people who milked cows with three-legged stools many years ago.

The Hon. Member would know if he looked at his information that about 10 per cent of Canadian dairy products go into yogurt and ice cream, these near-milk products. The reduction of tariffs in those areas, which will occur not now, as the Hon. Member suggests, or not tomorrow, as the Hon. Member suggests, but will begin to go into effect on January 1, 1989, and gradually over the 10 years after that, amounts to about 15 per cent to 16 per cent of that cost. So in fact what will happen is not an influx of material from the United States but, indeed, there could be a reduced price of the material by 10 per cent.

So perhaps the dairy industry has been affected, too, but 1.5 per cent of its gross income is on this part of the agreement. But with respect to the other part of the agreement, the Hon. Member has forgotten the fact that hundreds of thousands of jobs have been protected. He has forgotten the fact that these people will have money to buy dairy products. He has forgotten the fact that the people who will be working will have more money to spend on dairy products and that input costs will be less than they were before. The American market could be open, if there are any areas for Canadian ingenuity to enter that particular market.