

I began one week last month in Washington, with one of my quarterly meetings with George Shultz. He had just returned from Asia where, in one day, he had had breakfast in China, lunch in Korea, and dinner in Japan. That is the glamorous life of a Foreign Minister. I ended that week in my constituency in Yellowhead where, in one day, I had breakfast in Whitecourt, lunch in Swan Hills, dinner in Fort Assiniboine, then a meeting in Barrhead. That is the life of a Foreign Minister who sits in the Canadian House of Commons and intends to stay there.

The two worlds are not as far apart as they might seem. Twenty-six years ago the first long-term agreement with China brought a great boost to the grain economy of Western Canada. When the Korean Trade Minister recently visited Canada, plans were announced for Korea to increase its imports of Canadian canola seed from 11,000 tonnes per year to 15,000 per year.

Every day, political decisions in Paris, Washington, Moscow and other capitals affect the markets and the prices of Canadian farmers. Mikhael Gorbachev is an important man to Fort Assiniboine. The Common Agricultural Programme of the European community has done as much damage to the farmers of Alberta as the National Energy Programme did to our oil worker. Jimmy Gardner made his mark travelling the back roads of Manitoba. To do his job, Charlie Mayer spent a week last month in the Soviet Union, accompanied by farm industry representatives and about 20 business people, looking for trade opportunities, to help maintain Soviet interest in our grain.

Farm policy and foreign policy are tied tightly together. That might not always be the world we want but it is the world we live in, and both governments and producers have to take account of that. Obviously, domestic policy is highly important. The Mulroney Government has acted on a wide range of issues. We have delivered relief from Capital Gains Tax. We have frozen freight rate and elevator handling charges on grain handling and grain transportation. We have twice amended the Western Grain Stabilization Act, so that it is now a true instrument for stabilization. We have established a Farm Debt Review Board, and declared a moratorium on foreclosures under the Farm Credit Corporation. We have