

Supply

The hon. member made comments about the current tariff of 351 per cent on some products put in place on supply managed products. He also referred to the 50 per cent market for fluid milk Quebec farmers now enjoy. I have been having trouble with the logic of the Bloc's argument about how, when Quebec separates, it will continue to have 50 per cent of the Canadian fluid milk market at 351 per cent tariff. It does not seem to add up to me.

What steps is his government taking to help supply managed farmers in Quebec make the adjustment for the time when we have complete free trade in agriculture? That time is coming very quickly. In the beef industry we have free trade with the United States now. We actually have gone to some special import permits beyond the minimum access so it is happening quicker in the beef industry than even was scheduled under GATT.

The United States has served notice that it wants to discuss supply managed industries in Canada. Therefore there will be increased pressure to move to complete free trade.

It seems to me the Liberal government would have to be taking some concrete steps to help those farmers make that adjustment. If we are saying it cannot be done, if we will to maintain these 351 per cent tariffs, after a six year reduction in GATT it seems to me that tariff will still be 300 per cent, which is not realistic.

I ask the hon. member what he is considering doing to help these supply managed farmers make the adjustment necessary to continue to have a viable industry after free trade is accomplished.

Mr. Discepola: It is reassuring, Madam Speaker, that members other than Bloc Quebecois members have realized the importance of the rural agricultural industry in Quebec, especially dairy farming. It seems there is only one party in this House that does not realize the benefits Quebec enjoys through the protection and actions of *gestion de l'offre*. Dairy producers in Quebec especially enjoy tremendous advantage.

• (1530)

I find it very puzzling at times when I discuss this with rural members in my riding. Maybe it is not uncommon that the main leaders in the federation that supposedly defend the interests of farmers have separatist tendencies. Maybe the Bloc do not choose to advocate the benefits farmers enjoy because of the adherence to the federation that we love to call Canada. However, in Quebec they would prefer to have their own country.

I am baffled. Whenever a letter is written to a newspaper, very quickly someone from the UPA for example will refute the arguments and we get into a battle.

There is no guarantee that the protection farmers enjoy today would be continued in a separate Quebec. No member of the

Bloc Quebecois can stand and honestly say that in this House. The protection is by staying in Canada.

If we look at their so-called draft bill, Bloc Quebecois members are very quick to state that we are offering only the status quo, but they exclude article 1 of their draft bill which states categorically that Quebec will be an independent country. Then in articles 2 to 16 they say they would like the same monetary unit, the same immigration, the same passport, the same economic union. That is the status quo. They have all of that already within Canada and now they want to destroy it to get it back. There is no guarantee they will get protection under GATT, the G-7, or any other agreement.

To answer the question, the tariffs that were negotiated in the last round of the GATT see a decreasing protection through tariffication of roughly 15 per cent per year. That will give the industry enough time to adapt. By the same token, the government has doubled the loan provisions from \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion to help farmers obtain access to needed capital. The tariffication process will allow them the needed three or four years.

Mr. Penson: It is 15 per cent over six years.

Mr. Discepola: No, no. It is reducing 15 per cent. The transition period they are requesting to my knowledge does not exceed more than three or four years. They have plenty of time to adapt.

Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak to the motion by the hon. member for Frontenac. I will focus my remarks on inspection and research.

It is well known that in our recent budget the guiding principle was to share the burden of deficit reduction. Every sector and every region has had to make a contribution and this has been done fairly. The people of Guelph—Wellington support the government in its deficit reduction efforts. My constituents want reduced government spending and an end to government deficits.

Within the context of fiscal restraint we planned our budget to support our vision for Canada's agricultural and agri-food industry. It is one built on economic growth and security, on sustainable agriculture and a safe food supply.

Guelph—Wellington represents every aspect of the food chain. We have excellent farmers who work the land and provide food and dairy products. Better Beef Limited employs over 400 of our neighbours. Woolwich Dairy Incorporated of Ariss produces award winning goat's milk cheeses. The United Co-operatives of Ontario manufacture livestock feeds. These companies not only provide employment but they also contribute to our agricultural industry. My riding houses the University of Guelph, an important research facility.