

I might ask hon. members opposite, if the trade agreement was such a bad deal why is it that since the agreement came into effect there have been several major announcements by oat millers? I think the subject of oats was brought up a bit earlier, the hon. gentlemen opposite do not know their oats, I can tell them that. There have been several major announcements by oat millers. They are going to spend up to \$30 million. That is the total so far for upgrades to take advantage of the opportunities that now exist for us south of the border with respect to oats, \$30 million. There is Quaker Oats in Peterborough, \$17 million; CanOat Milling Incorporated, with a \$17 million oat processing mill just outside Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; and another unspecified number of millions of dollars by West Glen Milling in Alberta. All of this is to follow up the opportunities that Canadian oat producers have as a result of this agreement.

It is time for the hon. gentlemen opposite to get their nose into the oat bag and learn a bit about it.

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, as I begin my comments today, I have a nagging question. Where are the benefits to agriculture that the Tories promised under the free trade agreement? I have not seen any of these benefits as a member of this House, nor have I seen benefits as a farmer. I do not think this government can name one—not one benefit.

Agriculture has been hit the hardest blow. Here is the Tory agricultural record: the two-price wheat system axed; supply management in the dairy industry has eroded; transportation programs are at risk; Advance Payments for Crops Act eroded; At and East threatened with elimination; countervail duties increased on Canadian pork.

These are only but a few of the attacks on agriculture. Is this fear mongering? No, these are facts. Fear mongering is a term that is near and dear to this Prime Minister and his colleagues. To satisfy American interests, this government dropped the two-price system to the detriment of the domestic wheat producers across Canada and in particular, to the small fledgling milling wheat industry in the Atlantic region.

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Canadian wheat production is boasted around the world as the stalwart of the Canadian economy, but it suffered the first attack. Since then, Canadian agriculture has become a combat zone, with Tory destruction hitting all areas of agriculture.

Transportation programs in Atlantic Canada are also threatened. Feed freight assistance is under review. This subsidy, and I use the word with great caution, was put in place to equalize the cost of feed grains across Canada. In doing this, it stimulated the establishment of pork, egg and poultry industries in the Atlantic region. These subsidies allow maritime producers to compete with producers in other parts of the country. We can make sure that this review will eliminate this program as we know it, and with it the fair equalization of feed grain prices, leaving Atlantic producers again stripped from protection, another free trade victim.

At and East is also on the block. Bill C-26 has already had first reading. The elimination of At and East will leave Halifax and St. John elevators totally at the mercy of the marketplace, or should I say, American interests. Virtually all export grain in the east moves under rates provided under At and East. As the Maritime Farmers' Council wrote in their position paper of January 1989:

The continued use of the Port of Halifax as a grain export point is also dependent on the continuation of the At and East program.

Then in March 1989, less than three months later, At and East is listed on the budget cutbacks, demonstrating no concern for the views of maritime farmers.

The grain storage depot for Atlantic Canada is threatened and the consequences on the livestock industry will be severe. The free trade victims are adding up. This government has no commitment to the cereal industry in Atlantic Canada or in this country.

Speaking of commitment, where is the government's commitment to the pork industry? Pork producers across Canada have stated that the countervailing duty order imposed by the United States on fresh, chilled and frozen pork imports from Canada is completely unjustified. Along with this 8-cent duty, the potential exists for supplementary duty amounts to be assessed. The uncertainty this will cause among producers will ultimately affect an already depressed market. This uncertainty in the pork industry is also evident in the dairy industry and is contrary to the stable environment created by the