

who will be touched by this particular deal, before they have seen it? What are we going to talk about? What are the experts going to react to? That is the folly of this, the unbelievable nature of this process.

I am obviously very exercised about this deal. I am very exercised about how this deal is being handled. I think what we have seen, as I said at the outset, is that the Government has decided not only to open Canada for business but to have a special fire sale on agriculture. It has decided to sell out this critical sector of our economy.

I say "critical" because I believe that Canadians have a very strong attitude towards maintaining our farm community. I believe Canadians are prepared to invest money to maintain a viable and strong farm community. That is why we have seen our farm community built on supply management programs. We have seen our farm community built as a result of marketing boards. We have seen our farm community strengthened because of border controls on cheap imports coming in from other countries. That is what built this country and that is what built our agricultural fabric from Newfoundland to the West Coast of British Columbia. That is what the Government is now abandoning. The Government is now saying it is prepared to turn its back on rural Canada.

As the Minister of Agriculture just said, the best example is what is happening to the grape growers of Canada. There are going to be thousands of thousands of people who for generations have dedicated not only their lives but the lives of their families to developing that sector of the agricultural community who are about to be abandoned. I think the Minister of Agriculture had the courage, and I respect him for it, to essentially admit that, yes, this has been one of the prices we have decided to pay in order to obtain this free trade deal with the United States.

I see, you rising, Madam Speaker, to indicate that it is one o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until 2 o'clock.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2.05 p.m.

[*Translation*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of all Members to the fact that we had a fire in the equipment on the sixth floor. Nothing serious. It was simply a malfunction in one of the elevators.

Tabling of Documents

• (1405)

[*English*]

There was a malfunction in a piece of apparatus for one of the elevators. An extremely alert employee noticed the smoke and identified it. The fire alarm was put in action. Fire Department personal was here within a few minutes. They have located the problem. There is nothing to be alarmed about. We have received word that everybody can come back into the building and we can continue.

I wish to say to Hon. Members that we are indebted, first, to a very alert employee. We are also indebted—I was with them on the roof—to a very competent group of people from the Fire Department in whom we should have every confidence. I wish to express regard for the alert employee, and for the members of the Fire Department who not only got here immediately but also obviously knew what they were doing. I think that that should be recorded.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: In view of the left-over confusion, I suggest that we wait five or six minutes, and if it is the disposition of Hon. Members perhaps we can commence Statements by Members at 2.15 p.m., and then we will carry on as normal.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I might also state that I and other Members of the Board of Internal Economy, who are your servants, have felt for some time justified in approving the expenditure of a great deal of money to try to make this place more fireproof. I hope that we have your support.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 2.10 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 2.15 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to lay upon the Table the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

[*Translation*]

I may remind Hon. Members that this document is deemed permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.