

ans—not just farm jobs but thousands of jobs in Ontario, British Columbia and the other provinces because of our less productive capacity in the field of agriculture. There are the jobs on the farms, the processing of the food, the manufacturing and packaging of the food, and so on. It is therefore an over-all net loss to this country which we cannot afford.

Just the other day in committee the person who wanted to be the member for Ottawa Centre and who now sits in the Senate, Senator Robert de Cotret, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, was talking about chicken imports into Canada. Again, that difficulty arises because of the uncoordinated policies followed in this country. In brief, Mr. Speaker, historically only 1 per cent of our chicken consumption came in from abroad. Because of the negotiations carried on by the government across the way, after 1981, 6.3 per cent of our chickens will come in from abroad. Some studies have shown that the gross economic loss to Canada under this program will amount to more than \$100 million. I think that is pathetic. If you look at the figures for the Department of Agriculture you will find that over 100 million pounds of turkey and chicken have been sitting in storage. Despite that quantity, which represents five pounds for each man, woman and child in Canada, the government across the way just last week issued supplementary import permits to import more chicken, and two weeks ago it issued supplementary import permits to import over a million pounds of turkey into this country from the United States.

Mr. Ouellet: Unbelievable!

Mr. Nystrom: The hon. member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) says it is unbelievable. When we discuss the Foreign Investment Review Act—an act which I believe has not been tough enough or strong enough—we must remember that we cannot patriate the economy and develop a Canada which is strong and economically viable from coast to coast unless we do many other things besides just making FIRA stronger than it is today.

One of the areas in which we need to act is the area of food self-sufficiency, whether you go on land use policy, whether you go sector by sector, whether it is chickens or turkey, or whether you take beef. Roughly 10 per cent of the beef we consume in Canada is imported from the United States, from Argentina, or Australia, though we have the acreages in western Canada where we could produce a lot more beef than we could possibly consume in this country.

The price of vegetables went up this month by 5½ per cent. Why did this happen? It is because we are now relying more and more on foreign imports. When the price of vegetables goes up in the United States, that increase is reflected here in Canada. There are many vegetables we could be producing here. Many of them we used to produce here in Canada. A former Liberal government got rid of a program which was established to subsidize the storage of vegetables. We used to produce vegetables, store them, and use them in the winter months. But they got rid of that program and thus we are

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again placed in the position of having to import more food-stuffs from abroad.

So, it is not just a question of land use, of turkeys or chickens, or beef or vegetables. We import 45 million pounds of cheese every year, mostly from Europe. Nor is it just a question that we do not have appropriate agricultural policies that look after the farmland. The quality of the soil is deteriorating all the time, according to the Rennie report in Saskatchewan. The hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) agrees. I think any member who comes from a rural area knows these facts.

These are just some of the questions which will face this country in the 1980s and that are going to face the world in the 1980s. The availability of food will be the question, and I do not think there is any question more important than the capacity of mankind to produce food and distribute it to all parts of this country and to all parts of the world. I take my seat with the plea that when we consider FIRA in the committee we go beyond that as a solution for Canadian economic independence, and that in every sector of this country we devise policies that will make Canada much more self-sufficient and make sure that we can do our own thing, with our own people, and make a contribution to the world community at large.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, after hearing the speeches of my two hon. friends, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae) and the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom), I realize no one has anything to fear from FIRA, especially foreign groups trying to come in to buy into the Canadian economy. To my mind that is a disaster.

I rise to speak—I had not intended to do so, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Then sit down!

Mr. Waddell: No, I won't do that. I am telling hon. members that I am speaking on it because it is an important matter. As a matter of fact, I think it is going to be one of the big issues of the 1980s. It will be an issue that our party especially will emphasize again and again. I think it will be an issue to which Canadians will respond. So my friends across the way need not scream that I should sit down. I have every right to speak on it.

● (1520)

As I was saying, what causes me to rise and speak is something contained in the remarks of my colleague, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood, that is, that there is no one in the government across the House this afternoon who is prepared to answer his questions, and they are good questions about FIRA. As a matter of fact the minister responsible for FIRA is Senator de Cotret, I believe, someone whom we cannot even question in the regular way in the House. We cannot even approach him and put these questions to him. I have said this before in the House and I will say it again. It is an obscenity to have the Senate to begin with, and it is unfair