

I found it interesting to listen to the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds because he talked about the history of agriculture in this country and all kinds of other issues, but he did not address the four or five points in the motion before the House today which deals with the failure of the Government of Canada to secure access to the United States market.

He did not talk about the failure by the government to counter U.S. protectionist actions on things like pork. He did not talk about the jeopardy in which our marketing boards and supply management have been placed. He did not talk about the fact that we signed a deal with the United States stating that we were not going to interfere with each other's customers abroad, yet the United States is increasing the funding under its export enhancement program. He did not address the tremendous lack of confidence that there is in this country now with regard to our whole supply management system.

I thought it was interesting that he talked about the billions of dollars which the government has provided during the trade wars in the last two or three years between the EEC and the United States. It is interesting that he talked about those billions but did not talk about the \$500 million which the Minister of Finance cut out of the budget of the Department of Agriculture last April.

Those programs, amounting to \$500 billion, include the advance payments program. It is rather interesting he did not mention that because practically every major agricultural organization in Manitoba—the Keystone Agriculture Producers, the Manitoba Canola Growers, the Manitoba Corn Producers, the Manitoba Pulse Producers, the Western Barley Growers, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture which includes the pools, and so on, is opposing the government's position for that funding under the advance payments program which the minister did not bother mentioning.

The former Minister of Agriculture faithfully promised Canadian dairy producers in the spring of 1988 that he would secure and protect the underpinnings of the supply management system in this country. He said he would move products like ice cream and yoghurt from

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the tariff list to the import control list and that would salvage the whole supply management system.

He said it many times in the House of Commons and on the hustings and, yet, today we have the whole agricultural economy of this country, supply management and the marketing boards in jeopardy of being destroyed by a ruling.

We could not believe the minister at the time because the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in the United States, Senator Benson, was complaining at that time. As soon as the government placed commodities like ice cream and yoghurt on the import control list, the United States Government applied to GATT for a GATT panel to strike down the import controls that Canada had placed on it. A decision was made in the past month or so to strike that down and disallow it.

The implications of that decision could not have come at a worse time and they could not have had greater impact on the Canadian dairy industry. The Minister of Agriculture plays lots of games, but if that decision is upheld by the GATT the prediction is that at the end of the day he will accept that decision by the GATT panel at the December 4 meeting in Geneva, probably not implementing it until the end of the GATT round negotiations a year from this December. That precedent at that time in that way, with that timing, is the worst possible decision that could be made. Clearly the government should have made a deal in the free trade deal to control those imports.

• (1540)

The Americans did. They had a waiver which says that those commodities cannot be brought into the United States. If the government was serious about protecting the supply management and marketing board system in this country, there would have been that kind of arrangement in the free trade deal. Now we are faced with the prospect during the next year or so of losing that import control, which is one of the major reasons that we can have supply management. It will be a devastating decision, not only for the dairy industry but for the whole feather industry: broilers, turkeys, and egg products.