

cites the Macdonald Commission when discussing impacts on other sectors. The GATT talks in Montreal seemed to fall apart over agriculture. Yet agriculture is touted as being a frontliner in this agreement. I suggest that agriculture should have been exempt. Since this is not so, many facets of the agriculture industry will be in jeopardy.

The family farm in southwestern Ontario has been under a great deal of stress lately. In the past few years, hundreds of farms have gone bankrupt and hundreds of families have been facing a great deal of difficulty. Certainly we can see the 14 per cent interest rate through the Farm Credit Corporation as being one of the things that has created that difficulty. The unpredictable climate and our weather conditions that cause drought, frost and storms have certainly been a problem for farmers. This is an additional burden faced by producers in Canada.

Many family farmers have had to leave the farm to seek second incomes just to make certain their farms can survive. Wives are working in stores and men are working in the auto factories or other plants in order to receive second incomes to keep the farms alive. Now we are adding the Free Trade Agreement to all this, an agreement that will devastate our agriculture community.

This deal creates an unfair advantage for our neighbours to the south. I will try to explain this advantage. My colleagues across the way have suggested that certain factors have not been specifically mentioned by the agreement. Let us consider the climate factor. Long days, warm weather and a long growing season are a real advantage to the farm community. It takes away the concerns that our farmers have over frost and adds stability to production. It creates a higher acre production. For example, in southwestern Ontario, farmers produce approximately 20 tonnes of tomatoes per acre. In some areas of the United States, production is in the area of 40 tonnes per acre with the same capital investment. This agreement does not take that into account. Certainly it leaves our farmers with an unfair deal. I believe we have the best farmers in the world, but I am also realistic. If the cards are stacked against us, we cannot win.

Labour adds another dimension to this stacked deck. Only 25 per cent of American families receive the social and medical benefits and hospital services that 75 per cent of Canadians enjoy. Someone has to pay the bills for those families with social benefits. The Canadian farmer will be one who will have to carry that bill and

#### *Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

make the payments. This appears to me to be a bit unfair if we are talking about a level playing field.

The minimum wage in Canada is much higher than it is in many states in the United States. This puts the Canadian farmer in another stacked deck situation. Will we in Canada lower the minimum wage to be competitive and on an equal footing with the United States farmer? Since the trade deal will be driven by the holy dollar sign and since certainly control of that dollar sign will be the market, the Americans will be able to sell their products if they can compete on any basis less economically than we can.

I believe that too much has been given up for our farmers to survive. The Canadian Government has shown wisdom and foresight in developing policies that protect our environment. Many insecticides and herbicides that are used legally in the United States are not legal to use in Canada. They pose a great deal of danger to the environment and to the people. These pesticides and herbicides which are banned in Canada are not allowed to be used by Canadian farmers. However, they put the American farmer in a much better dollar and cent situation.

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The Americans can produce much easier with the kinds of sprays they are allowed to use. Are we going to lower our standards to be competitive or are United States farmers going to raise theirs by not using such pesticides and insecticides? I doubt very much that we will see them change their products.

We have struggled long over acid rain and pollution of air and water with them. The environment will not change. The Americans will continue to use their products, so our farmers will be faced with another obstacle, another stacked deck, that of unfair environmental laws.

Marketing boards have been placed on the block and their powers will be chopped just like the turkey's neck at Christmas. I realize it is being suggested that the powers will remain in place, but think about a marketing board controlling Canadian prices and supplies while American products not controlled are shipped to our markets to compete. I find that scenario ridiculous.

A spokesman for Heinz, a large food processor in our riding, in discussing the reduction of tariffs on tomatoes made it very clear that if tariffs are removed, the company must take counteraction to balance the loss if it wishes to remain competitive. If the 10 per cent tariff