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narrowed the debate to those people who have quit and is taking away their right to a level playing field in terms of how they are affected by this government decision. That is why people are concerned.

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There is also the myth, which certain government members have perpetrated, that the fishing industry is receiving millions and millions of dollars in hand-outs that they do not deserve and that those people engaged in fishing really do not deserve the kind of support that they need.

When it comes to agriculture, if we listen to government ministers and government backbenchers we would think that the government has bent over backwards to meet all the needs of farmers. Again that is not true.

I will quote some information that was produced for the member for Mackenzie by the pools: "Compared to our two largest grain competitors, Europe and the United States, Canada is falling behind. Using 1981 real total net farm incomes as a base, European incomes fell by 16.5 per cent over the last decade, American farm incomes rose by 23 per cent and Canadian farm incomes fell by 51.4 per cent over the 10-year period from 1981 to 1991". That is a 51 per cent decrease in farm incomes in this country.

That is why this debate is taking place. The farmers in this country, the rural communities in this country, know there is a crisis. It is not a matter of too many farmers. It is not a matter of farmers refusing to go out and seek new crops, which seems to be the response of *The Globe and Mail* to the crisis that exists. Because of what is happening at the national level and at the international level, our farm incomes have gone down by 51.4 per cent over the last decade.

While governments may laud their various achievements or claim they have had various achievements over the same time period, take a look at some of the things that have actually happened. Look, for example, at the Crow transportation benefit. My friend, the member for Moose Jaw—Lake Centre said: "The Liberals began dismantling the protection farmers had under the Crow rate and now the PCs are set to finish the job. If we lose

the Crow rate we could see a lot of grain moving to port via the United States".

What exactly has the government done with the Crow rate? The Liberals under Jean-Luc Pépin and later the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre actually destroyed the Crow benefit that existed for many farmers. They set up something else to replace it.

What has the Conservative government done with that replacement? Right now we are looking at a 10 per cent cut in 1993-94 and another cut of 10 per cent in 1994-95; that is 10 per cent this year, 10 per cent next year, cut in the support that Canadian farmers received in lieu of the original Crow agreement.

What has that meant? In 1983-84 farmers paid out an average of \$5.72 to move a tonne of grain or 23 per cent of the total freight cost. By 1992-93 it cost farmers an average of \$11.98 or 37 per cent of the cost of moving a tonne of grain. The actions of this government are increasing the costs of farmers trying to move grain out of this country at a time when there is a 51.4 per cent decrease in farm income for farm families across this country over a 10-year period.

It is interesting that during the same time period farm income in the United States went up by 23 per cent. It is not because American farmers are more efficient on the land. It is because American farmers are more efficient in Congress. They have subsidies and programs that do not exist in this country. They have programs that have taken away our traditional markets, and when that happens our government is silent.

Occasionally there is one single speech, saying the Americans should not be doing that. Then there is a quick shift from attacking the Americans to all of a sudden blaming Europe. The reality is that it is the Americans that are taking our markets. It is the Americans that export the largest amount of grain. The Europeans, by and large, consume the vast majority of the grain they produce.

It is the Americans that are the price leaders. Unfortunately, they are also the subsidy leaders when it comes to supporting their farmers and supporting the sale offshore of their product.