

Those who are not on the government side are in a good position to use those criticisms, but we must try to explain our policies and all the work that is done to our farm associations. So, I can say, Mr. Speaker that the hon. member for Roberval could have been a good member of parliament, because in the—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

Mr. Côté (Richelieu): —committee on agriculture—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

Mr. Côté (Richelieu): It is perhaps a good thing to know.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

[English]

TRADE—WHEAT—STATIONING OF SALES REPRESENTATIVE IN MAINLAND CHINA

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, on May 8 I posed a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) in which I asked him whether the Canadian government would consider stationing a permanent sales representative of the Canadian Wheat Board in China once diplomatic recognition has been achieved. Of course, the motive I had in asking the question was that at the present time procedures are in process to recognize China diplomatically. While these discussions are going on, I think the government should be talking about stationing a permanent trade mission in China because this is one of the largest potential markets in the world. I believe it is one of the markets on which Canada should capitalize for the benefit not only of ourselves but the international community as an entirety.

I congratulate the government for undertaking diplomatic manoeuvres designed to recognize China, but I also criticize the government for the long time it took in considering such a move. I think this should have been done years ago. I know that as a new member, particularly a member of the younger generation, I find it unbelievable that there still are members of parliament who say we should not recognize China diplomatically. I am very disappointed, particularly with some members of the Conservative party. I think their attitude results from nothing but intellectual constipation. I believe they are so far out of touch, it is beyond comprehension.

I think we should establish a trade mission in China for two reasons. First, I believe

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there is a domestic reason. I believe the biggest problem on the prairies today and in the farming communities is lack of cash. We need an immediate source of cash and some long range planning as well. I think in China we have a market which must be pursued. I think the Chinese economy today is better organized than it has been in years past. I believe we have there a potential market among the 600 million or 700 million people. I think we should take advantage of this opportunity to build up a trade market, because I believe eventually the other nations of the world will become interested in this area.

Secondly, I think China is very valuable politically. About one quarter of the world's people live there and I think we must bring them into the world family. I think it is insane to believe otherwise. One way to do this is through diplomatic recognition, but there must also be as much trade as possible. It is my opinion that there should be a comprehensive trade program. It would be insane not to do something like this because if we leave these people outside the world community, we will only increase the danger of world trouble and world insecurity.

I should like to stop here and ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to comment on the idea of establishing a permanent trade representative or mission in China. This is only a start on what I would like to see in the way of more trade and cultural exchanges between our countries. In this way we can improve not only our own conditions and give more security to our own economy, particularly that of western Canada, but also create a more harmonious international community.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there would appear to be some slight confusion in the use of words. The hon. member refers at times to a "trade commissioner" and at other times to a "Canadian Wheat Board representative". There is a difference. Of course, it is too early to announce what form the Canadian mission to Peking will take if and when the Chinese Communists accept Canadian recognition. It might be a bit premature to say this afternoon who the mission would include but it would seem normal that it would include a trade commissioner such as we have in many other countries of the world.

In the meantime my hon. friend is aware that we have trade commissioners in Hong Kong. One of them was recently at the Canton Fair. So there is knowledge from Hong