

### *Customs Tariff*

their capacity for processing, they could not handle all the production. One farmer had 500 tons on his farm that were not touched. His acreage was that good that he was able to supply his share of the market off the other part of the field. The processing facilities of the other companies were filled to the brim. The gods were good to us.

Some of this kind of production could be used for tomato paste. Tomato paste does not require the same high quality product as ketchup, canned tomatoes and tomato soups. In Canada we maintain a very high standard. These tariff changes will allow us to keep that high standard of which we are so proud. We are superior to any other country. Any country that exports to Canada must meet the same high standards that we impose on our producers and processors.

Let us hope that some of this waste will be overcome. Some producers may be enticed to crowd their facilities a little if they have this kind of protection. They could gear up their facilities to take care of the extra tomatoes.

Fast food outlets are rapidly becoming a way of life in Canada. The pizzerias and similar establishments use a very high quality tomato product. It contains vitamin C and other minerals necessary for a healthy diet. That was something that was considered in these tariff negotiations.

I am sorry I was not here earlier today to hear the Minister of Finance introduce this bill. I hope he gave those responsible for these tariff changes some credit. They worked hard on the negotiations that took place. There was horse trading, bartering, and travelling back and forth across the ocean to see if they should bend a little bit, and so on.

Our world is small and becoming smaller all the time. We are trading in a world community, in fact a world neighbourhood. No matter what happens, we are going to be affected. Something may happen that would never have happened 10, 20, 30, 40 years ago. We are affected almost instantly now.

With satellites we now know what production will be ahead of time. We can pretty well tell whether there will be a lack of food before harvesting, because of the pictures continually sent to earth by these satellites. Our Canadian Department of Agriculture shares in some of these satellites. We are in a better position to know how to deal with our fellow man not only in trade, but to assist him in a time of need. Are we doing that?

We in this country have some of the best know-how on production and processing. We have the most modern means for processing. We also have some of the best methods of research. In addition to our own researchers, we have signed agreements with other countries which have top notch researchers and scientists.

We have an exchange program with the United States for scientists. In January of this year we signed an agreement with Israel, which has some of the most competent scientists. They do an excellent job on horticultural crops. Their research is available to us through agreement. On projects where we do better, their researchers work here instead of duplicating the work in their country. Their researchers work on projects here

[Mr. Whelan.]

and ours work on some projects in their country. This could be with regard to apples, pears or peaches, or any kind of vegetable crop.

Israel's irrigation expertise is superior to any in the world. It can be beneficial to Canada. Their research has come about because of the tremendous amount of energy it takes to pump their water. Nearly one-third of their energy consumption is to irrigate crops in desert or semi-desert areas. Although there are different climatic conditions there, this research can be used for many of the crops produced in Canada.

Possibly Bill C-18 is not considered by some to be important. However, it is a very important bill for the horticultural industry. They have been asking for it for a long time. I note that two concessions are being made to Australia and New Zealand concerning pears. I do not see much wrong with that. I am not saying I would have given them because we are always being told if we do not do something, they will. However, they are Commonwealth trading partners and members of GATT. If it will be beneficial to one part of this nation, allowing our producers to expand their production, that is all right with me.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Whelan) will accept a question. In his speech he talked about seeing fields of tomatoes in Ontario that were not harvested. He has always been a great advocate of governing boards. There are boards that govern wheat and other commodities. Does the hon. member not feel that if we had the law of supply and demand governing, maybe these tomatoes might have been harvested? The hon. member made a great speech. Why is he so extravagant in his suggestions as to what happened? I would like to hear what he has to say. I do not live in a tomato area. I live in a wheat area where young farmers today are questioning even the Canadian Wheat Board and government interference with private enterprise. I would like to ask the hon. member about that.

● (2050)

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, first I want to say that the tomato marketing board was put into effect in Ontario long before I even came on the scene. That was under a Conservative government which has been here for 37 years. The Canadian Wheat Board was put into effect by a Conservative government, and it had reasons for setting up the Canadian Wheat Board. One need only read history and refresh his memory about the unfairness which took place.

The same thing happens with any other crop. If you happen to be a big tomato grower and are a good friend of the processor, you might just deliver all your crop. However, if you are out in the country a little farther away and perhaps not such a good friend of the processor, you may not deliver yours. Under the marketing system of Ontario under that great Conservative regime, all producers are treated equally and fair. They are producing the product they contract to produce. Nothing stops them from being efficient or producing the best tomatoes. They strive to produce more per acre than they did previously, and they up their production per acre all the time.