

*Government Orders*

environment because greater resources must be exploited in order to achieve that reasonable return.

It is simple, and because it is that simple, I do not understand why the government is acting in the manner that it is. I ask anyone who thinks otherwise to ponder these figures.

Canadian farmers are efficient. Canadian farmers are the most efficient in the world. I ask anyone who thinks otherwise to ponder these figures.

For example, milk production per cow has gone up 70 per cent in Canada since 1971. During the same period, milk yields rose only 46 per cent in the U.S. That is creating sustainable agriculture.

Or if one wants to judge efficiency by price, if we look at poultry we see that the real farmgate price of poultry has fallen by 30 per cent since the 1970s. The retail price has dropped just 10 per cent over the same period.

In terms of chicken, in 1982 the farmgate price of chicken represented 48 per cent of the final cost to the consumer. Now it accounts for only 30 per cent of the cost. Clearly, these figures demonstrate orderly marketing efficiency.

Members opposite might think that by piecemeal cutting of small useful programs the deficit and national debt can be reduced.

However, if that is really the case, then I suggest they read the 1989 Auditor General's report, pages 92 to 93. Encourage your Minister of Finance to close that \$300 million loophole that benefits only large corporations. The minister says he will close it with the GST. By then, \$1 billion will be lost. That \$1 billion would pay the interest of the APC and PGAP for 37 years, or conversely, it will take 25 or 37 years without those programs to make up for that giveaway. The difference is that these programs provide a tangible, intentional benefit, while this tax giveaway only serves to line the pockets of large corporations in an unethical manner.

Further, I would suggest that destroying the orderly marketing will not eliminate the national debt, so why attempt to justify its destruction as debt reduction, unless you are trying to hide the fact. Is that what you are doing?

In conclusion, I just want to say that Canada has one of the greatest agricultural systems in the world. It is criminal what this government is doing to it in the name of debt reduction. Clearly, that is not what it is actually attempting to do, which is to dismantle orderly marketing.

**Mr. Duhamel:** I do have one question for my colleague. I want to have him confirm, if I have understood correctly, that there was no consultation, no warning, no discussion prior to or during the election that this attempt to remove this particular program would be undertaken? I want to make sure I have that correct.

Second, if I am correct, this is very similar to what has been undertaken with the goods and services tax, the transfer payments to health and education to provinces, and the reduction in agricultural subsidies. I was wondering if there were other examples that come to mind of this particular approach to government.

• (1550)

**Mr. Crawford:** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for St. Boniface for his questions. There was absolutely nothing mentioned about cuts before, after, or during the election campaign. If we get into that issue I would need another hour.

There was no mention of cuts. Also, in relation to the hon. member's second question on education, the GST, agriculture, VIA Rail, there was absolutely no mention of VIA Rail cuts during the election campaign, and the devastating removal of jobs for many people. Other countries are now getting into rail transportation. Also, the government did not mention one thing on the environment. There was no environmental study on the elimination of rail transportation compared to the infrastructure of trucks and automobiles. There was one page which they called an environmental statement, which it was not.

Another thing is agriculture. In my riding during the campaign the Minister of Agriculture stated that we had a \$3 million grant to clean up the Sydenham River basin. For over 13 months I have been fighting to find out what happened to the \$3 million.

**Mr. Walker:** They stole it.