

Agricultural Stabilization Act

dies, and that in return, the federal Government will not withdraw its programs but continue to maintain the same kind of action to help Quebec producers.

It seems to me this is very simple and easy to understand. I do not know what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) can be thinking.

Unfortunately, the most shocking aspect of this question is that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture is from Quebec. Often, for a mere \$8,000 more as Parliamentary Secretary, some people are willing to sell out anyone. And that is exactly what is happening with respect to the agricultural sector in Quebec. I do not think the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Blais) who comes from Quebec, is being paid a salary to sell the Minister's policies to Quebec farmers and to put his fellow Members to sleep. His role is to defend the interests of Quebec farmers. And the same definition of a Member's role applies to those Conservative Members in this House who since September 4 thought they were elected and paid to sell the policies of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to their constituents. Meanwhile, they are not doing the work they should be doing, which consists in representing and defending the interests of their constituents in Parliament.

Mr. Lapierre: Pensions!

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) is referring to the last debate we had on de-indexation of Old Age Security pensions. How many Conservative Members in the House—Mr. Speaker, I am about to finish my speech—have said: Canadians agree, I saw my constituents and they approve? I see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mrs. Bertrand) who on some occasions,—I have heard quite a few debates—also defended the Minister's policies. Today, the Prime Minister dropped the whole gang to save this skin. He saved his image, but it makes the rest of his Members look very foolish.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I hope that after this humiliating experience on the issue of Old Age Security pensions, Hon. Members opposite, and especially new Members, will stand a little straighter and now they have some backbone and defend the interests of Quebec farmers. And I hope these people will have the guts to talk to the Minister of Agriculture.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre).

● (2010)

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to pay special homage to my colleague from Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). I think that as a Member from an urban riding he has shown that he can defend the interests of the people who

have elected him, and his outstanding intervention proved that he can also defend the interest of all Quebecers. I find it admirable on his part that he would want to take part in a debate which more directly concerns rural Members. Thanks to his co-operation and his participation, we had at least an input from Quebec in this discussion, particularly since the rural Members of the Government chose to remain seated. He did point out that Members were silent. I see the Hon. Member for Richelieu (Mr. Plamondon) is in the House. I salute him, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to hear his views. I see my neighbour riding representative, the Hon. Member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand), who has as many pork producers in her constituency as I have in mine. She has yet to say a word in this debate. That is regrettable because, frankly, Shefford is not the only riding where pork producers are experiencing difficulties. Our neighbours of Brome-Missisquoi do have problems and I find it rather discouraging that she quite simply refuses to join in the debate and defend the interests of her electors. It is a shame that the electors of Brome-Missisquoi cannot have their say about what is for that agricultural community a very basic issue. Thanks to people like my colleague from Montreal-Sainte-Marie, Quebecers have someone to speak up for them in the House, and I commend him for that.

Still, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for him. Does my colleague from Montreal-Sainte-Marie not think it is a bit ridiculous that this Government, which since the beginning of its mandate and throughout the election campaign talked about nothing but new harmony, consultations galore and consensus, now finds itself in a dilemma—there is no consensus nor harmony with respect to this Bill? The Minister is all by himself, no partners. I would ask the Hon. Member whether finally his riding... Considering the battle he has won today about the old age security pensions, I certainly want to congratulate him. He must be thinking about Quebec farmers, the intransigence of the Minister of Agriculture, his lack of understanding and his incompetence when dealing with the Americans. We know now that a permanent surtax will be facing Canadian farmers as of July 25 and we are also worried about his approach to the dairy policy. I think we will need the support of the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie to launch an attack when the session resumes and to make sure that, once again, after weeks and months of efforts we will be able to stir our Quebec colleagues so that we might at long last have some Quebec input in this House. I want to ask my colleague whether he thinks that it might be the only way to wake up those Members?

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to tell my colleague that, in my opinion, we should not wait till September to mobilize Quebec farmers to put pressure on the Minister, and I am not speaking of putting pressure on the Conservative Members because it would be useless as we saw in that other matter, but to put pressure on the Minister of