

Adjournment Debate

a cow return to the spot where she delivered her dead calf and bawl. We feel for that kind of thing.

We have heard it said in the House today that we are going to sell out the family farm and such things. Do you think that any of us who are that committed and directly involved in agriculture, who take that much pride in what we do and know firsthand the sacrifices that go into it and are willing to make them because of the joy that comes with production, would do anything that would hurt Canadian agriculture?

I find that very difficult to take. The Opposition should take us on if they think we have done a bad job, but they should not stand up and say "sell out" and impugn our motives, because we are good at what we do and we only want a chance to show that to the rest of the world.

Canada is comprised of over 25 million people. We are the biggest trading nation per capita in the world on a relative basis. We have more natural resources than any other country in the world. There is no question that it is difficult for a young farmer to start up in Canada today, but it is probably easier in Canada than in any other place in the world.

Producers must never forget that we produce for consumption, which means markets and access to markets. The United States is a big market for us. As an example, pork production is a big industry in every province with the exception of Newfoundland. We export \$800 million worth of pork, and three-quarters of that goes to the United States. This is about access to that market.

The Americans have on their books the Agriculture Adjustment Act, Section 22 of which allows the Americans to close their border on 24 hours' notice. The Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) is a farmer, and I suspect a pretty good one. He produces as good quality oil seeds and cereal grains as anyone in the world. We are talking about access for his product and that of his neighbours to the largest and richest market in the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langdon: The blocks are still there.

Mr. Mayer: Madam Speaker, this is the true small "c" conservative Party, the true reactionaries. There are no alternatives. I am reminded of Edmund Burke, who said that a conservative is somebody who believes that nothing should ever be done for the first time. They are the old democrats. They are looking to the past. We will have a great future in Canadian agriculture if we can knock down some of these trade barriers. Our first step is to deal with the United States.

Let me tell you how important the United States hog market is to Manitoba producers. About 38 per cent of the total production in Manitoba has to be exported. Of that, three-quarters goes to the United States. This is about helping Manitoba farmers gain secure access to that market. The hog and the pork business would be absolutely devastated if it did not have that market. We look forward very much to being able to promote the product of the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre in the United States without fear of having the border closed.

● (1815)

This deal is about the future of our country. It is about the future of our farmers. It is a very good deal and I look forward to having an opportunity to debate it more fully.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being 6:15 p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 82(12), the debate on the motion has now ended.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

AGRICULTURE—EDMONTON FOOD PRODUCTION INSPECTION PLANT LABORATORY

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, on September 23 I rose in the House to ask a question of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise). It concerned his Department's intention to consolidate services of the food production and inspection branch by moving its seed laboratories from Edmonton, basically to Saskatoon.

It will be a two-pronged move, with the germination portion to be closed in January, 1988, and the purity laboratory to be phased out within three years' time. I am here to request that the Minister reconsider his position. The seed laboratory has been a decided and tremendous asset to the Government complex located in my riding of Edmonton East, and provides a very essential service to seed growers in the area, including most of Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan, as well as growers from British Columbia and the United States.

It is the only facility in Alberta authorized to issue the orange international certificate which must accompany all overseas shipments of creeping red fescue. As you know,