Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

McCain says most of these people will go to the States and they will be forced to go for those reasons. What do they do with the milk? This will put pressure on the supply-management system and on the farmers to try to bring down the price in order to compete with American milk products.

We have proposed an amendment to this deal which we feel addresses the concerns of the supply managed farmers. I want to read it into the record:

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act or in the Agreement shall in any way diminish, reduce or otherwise alter the objects, duties and powers of the bodies established by or pursuant to the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act.

The Government would not accept that. We feel something like this will help protect our supply managed industries.

I wish to conclude by repeating something I said earlier in this House. Our Party has put the Government on notice. We will be watching every little sector of our economy in order to ensure that the Government keeps it promises—and it might be one of the first times—to the farmers of this country to put programs in place to help farmers overcome the adverse effects of this deal.

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have said, it is indeed a real pleasure to stand before this teeming throng today to make my first speech in the House of Commons.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) on his election as our Speaker. I had the privilege of being born and raised in his riding. As a matter of fact, I spent the first 25 years of my life on Fraser Street. He had the opportunity of running the most unique election campaign in the country this year. We are all aware that he campaigned on the basis of not having a campaign. However, I knew he was in good shape a couple of weeks prior to the election when I talked to my Uncle Jimmy, a Scottish socialist from way back. He assured me that he was going to do something he had never done before, vote for a Tory, because he was a good "man". I am sure that my colleagues in the House recognized the qualities of the Hon. Member for Vancouver South when they elected him Speaker of the House. If you would convey those greetings to him I would appreciate

I would also like to thank the people of Delta for electing me. It was a very hard fought campaign and I appreciate the confidence they have shown in me by electing me as their representative and the first Member of Parliament for Delta. I would like to repeat the pledge I made to them on November 21, to serve them in any way I possibly can and to the best of my ability as their new Member.

Delta is a new riding resulting from distribution. Around here when you say you are from Delta, people look at you with a very blank expression. They think that it is probably somewhere in the MacKenzie Delta, in the Northwest Territories, but it is just 17 miles south of Vancouver. Those are very significant miles in that, because of the distance from the mountains, we have only one-third of Vancouver's rainfall. We are known as the home of the sun god, and we take great pride in that.

To the south of our municipality we have a very beautiful beach called Boundary Bay. Beside Boundary Bay, which has the largest salt water beaches in Canada, we have a small area of the U.S. called Point Roberts. It is only a few square miles and completely isolated from the rest of Washington State. To the natives of Delta it is most famous for its milk, beer, and gas, not necessarily in that order.

• (1630)

On the west side of our municipality and district we have the Straits of Georgia, the Gulf of Georgia. Here is located the Tsawwassen ferry terminal, which is a major terminus for the B.C. ferry system to Vancouver Island. It makes me think of the Free Trade Agreement. I remember when that terminal was first built. Everyone predicted dire things. They said that it was foolish to build a terminus way out in the middle of nowhere, out in the country. Yet today it is one of the most successful ventures in B.C. We started off with two capital ships. We now have over 20. The ferry system is planning two more giant ferries to operate out of the Tsawwassen ferry terminal.

I suggest to the opponents of free trade that 25 years from now they will look back on this debate just as we are looking back on the debate on the Auto Pact and saying to ourselves: "What a great thing it was for Canada".

Just north of the Tsawwassen ferry terminal there is Roberts Bank which illustrates a great act of faith in the future of our country. At Point Roberts there is a freight port. The sand was dredged up and the major coal exporting site on the West Coast was established. The port has the potential of shipping over 30 million tonnes of coal every year. This is a tremendous boost to the economy of B.C.. Without it that money would not be flowing into our British Columbia economy. It has a