

*Supply***GOVERNMENT ORDERS***[English]***BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY S. O. 82—CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—AGRICULTURE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Althouse:

That this House condemn the Government for negotiating a trade agreement with the United States that has failed to stop the predatory practices of the U.S. Export Enhancement Program, and that will;

- (a) lead to the elimination of our two-price system for wheat;
- (b) undermine the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board;
- (c) reduce the growth of supply management marketing boards;
- (d) reduce the growth opportunities for Canadian fruit and vegetable producers;
- (e) adversely affect the Canadian wine and grape industry;
- (f) provide little benefit for red meat producers; and
- (g) Provide no new benefit for farmers purchasing farm equipment or other farm inputs.

Mr. Speaker: When the House rose at one o'clock p.m., the Hon. Member for Kamloops Shuswap (Mr. Riis) had the floor.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pick up where I left off prior to Question Period. I think it might be appropriate to indicate that today we are in fact debating a motion put by the New Democratic Party regarding the free trade deal, that this House condemn the Government for negotiating a trade agreement with the United States that has failed to stop the predatory practices of the U.S. Export Enhancement Program which will provide little benefit for wheat producers, reduce the growth opportunities for Canadian fruit and vegetable producers and adversely affect the Canadian wine and grape industry. It will provide no new benefit for farmers purchasing farm equipment or other farm inputs. It will reduce the growth of supply management marketing boards. It will undermine the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board. Finally, it will lead to the elimination of our two-price system for wheat.

● (1610)

It was difficult to include all our concerns regarding the trade deal with the United States as it impinges on agriculture. But I believe that it can be summarized by looking at a number of examples. I will take a moment just to refer to one example, and there could be many. I chose this one because of the situation near my constituency where there has been quite a substantial effort over the last little while to develop a grape and wine industry.

The Okanagan Valley is one of the very few places in Canada, along with the Annapolis Valley, the Niagara Peninsula, a small area of Quebec, and other areas in the central interior of British Columbia, which have the climatic

and soil conditions that make the growth of grapes and soft tree fruits possible. In some cases it is relatively marginal but, nevertheless, it is possible. Over the last little while the grape growers have developed vineyards on the hillsides of the Okanagan Valley and they have developed small cottage wineries. The large wineries have opened up facilities as well in the area to process both local grapes and imported grapes. They have developed a substantial wine industry.

Today, when these wine industries from across Canada compete internationally they are able to compete head to head with some of the major wineries of Spain, France, California and other areas. But I think it is fair to say that in western Canada this industry is still struggling in terms of establishing itself in both the domestic and international markets.

I had an opportunity just this morning to meet with a group of representatives of the Grape Growers Action Committee. The story that they put before us was a story of tragedy. As they reminded us, and as most Members of Parliament know, the Canadian grape and wine industry provides 16,000 jobs in this country, and many other jobs in related industries such as fertilizer, equipment, and the usual jobs of shopkeepers and others who service this particular community.

They also reminded us that farm gate receipts for last year for the grape crop were about \$40 million. It was much more when the multiplier effect is considered because this money as cash flow snowballs into support industries such as financial institutions, chemical institutions, fertilizer institutions, brokers, shippers, labour, various personal expenses and, of course, taxes at the municipal, provincial, regional and federal levels. One could go on. Obviously, this is a sector of our agricultural community that has made a real dint in establishing new markets here and overseas.

The problem that they brought to our attention was that this free trade deal will wipe them out. It will destroy this industry. The pricing situation of mark-ups will be reduced as a result of this deal. They are convinced that their industry will be eliminated. I guess I cannot describe accurately or adequately what it was like to meet these representatives of the grape growing industry and to talk to one woman in particular. As a matter of fact, she said that her husband could not have joined her because he was simply so distressed and so angered and feeling such a sense of betrayal that he could not bring himself to come to meet with Members of Parliament. He and his family struggled to establish their grape growing vineyard. Now, through no fault of their own, the Government has decided to eliminate their farm. Something that he could not tolerate was coming to Ottawa and talking in a serious way to Members of Parliament. So his wife came, along with others in the Grape Growers Action Committee.

They explained that in parts of Canada these people had been growing grapes and had been on the land for four or five generations. Many of them came in the 1800s to the Niagara Peninsula area to establish their operations. To think that generation after generation after generation is now going to be