

*Supply**[Translation]*

In the case of yogurt and ice cream, the Government says this has nothing to do with the FTA and that it is a GATT decision. That is not true, Mr. Speaker. Yogurt and ice cream have everything to do with the FTA! We wouldn't be talking about this today if there were no Free Trade Agreement. So what happened? Before signing the FTA, we had tariff protection for dairy products. The United States had similar protection. Since the middle of the 50's, the Americans have enjoyed a GATT exemption, allowing them to prohibit imports of dairy products from Canada. Since that time we have been unable to send them our dairy products.

How did the members of the brain trust across the floor, the Tory brain trust, manage to sign a free trade agreement that will eventually eliminate all tariffs on dairy products while at the same time protecting our dairy industry? They simply withdrew dairy products from the protected tariffs list and transferred them to the import control list whose items are supposedly protected by GATT.

The Americans have now obtained a decision from GATT that prevents us from doing so. A decision by Canada to transfer the tariff protection list to the import control list has now been overturned by GATT, and we have no protection whatsoever. What a monumental blunder on the part of the Canadian Government!

[English]

We saw that happening last year. I questioned the former Minister of Agriculture, John Wise, who sat with distinction in this House. I asked him about the dairy question, and I have no doubt that the real reason John Wise did not present himself for re-election was because he knew exactly what was going to happen to him.

At any rate, in his amiable manner—I can still see him and so can you—he said to me, “The hon. gentleman can just sit back and relax because we will deliver to the dairy farmers of Canada exactly what we told them we would deliver”.

I feel pretty relaxed this morning, but the dairy industry is not relaxed. They have been sold out by a bunch of incompetent amateurs. My colleague from Lambton—Middlesex will talk in more detail about the

fact that the U.S. is not even able to supply its own market and yet now is trying to sell into ours.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, the part-time Minister of Agriculture, is going around complaining bitterly about the American action on hogs and milk products. Just last week, in a speech to the Canada Grains Council in Toronto, then apparently in Calgary, this is what he had to say:

It defies belief that the United States can complain about our quotas while their market is closed to Canadian suppliers.

Where has he been? What has he been smoking, as we say? Join the club. All I can say to him is that it defies belief that this government was dumb enough and gullible enough to sign a trade deal that got us into this whole mess in the first place.

These are the words of the Prime Minister on March 16, 1987:

Our highest priority is to have an agreement that ends the threat to Canadian industry from U.S. protectionists who harass and restrict our exports through the misuse of trade remedy laws.

This was said in the House of Commons in response to one of my arguments. Then he signed the deal. He signed a deal that he said would end that harassment. We told Canadians it would not.

One of the worst things you can do in life, whether you say it to your family, to a neighbour or to a business partner, is to say “I told you so”. It is not a popular thing to say. You cannot even say it on a football field. But I will say that we did tell them so and exactly what we said was going to happen is happening to the Canadian farms!

• (1150)

Let me return to the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. He said last week of the latest American industry plan to seek countervail of our Durum wheat exports which the Americans now claim are causing the decline of prices in their markets:

If the U.S. is serious in its rhetoric about free trade in agriculture, I would hope that they would begin by ceasing this trade harassment on Durum.

Oh, what a late convert. What a slow learner. The Deputy Prime Minister can huff and puff all he wants. The problem is that Canadian farmers just do not believe this government any more.