

*Oral Questions*

commitment which exceeds that of any other administration in Canadian history.

I can furthermore confirm that that commitment will be kept.

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### GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for Skeena and the NDP for their confidence in the candidacy of Mr. Jean Chrétien today.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Foster:** It is nice to see them on side.

I want to put a question to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture who knows that Canadian farmers are the big losers in the GATT negotiations and the suspension of those negotiations last Friday. For instance, U.S. farmers are largely insulated from the impact of these by the U.S. farm bill, whereas Canadian farmers, especially those grain producers in western Canada, have had their support programs cut by 50 per cent during the last two years.

What is the Deputy Prime Minister going to do for western producers and other producers across this country in the face of the collapse of the GATT negotiations and the suspension?

• (1430)

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear to the hon. member and to all hon. members that this round of Uruguay negotiations have not been suspended. In fact they are continuing and will continue into the first part of the new year in the hope and expectation that there can be some resolution to the very difficult agricultural file. To suggest that the talks have been suspended or that they have collapsed is certainly premature.

We, as a nation, led by the Minister for International Trade, and our very competent and able negotiators, will be there to contribute to that process in every way, shape or form. We did indicate, and I have indicated before, that even if we were to succeed in all aspects of the

GATT round, there still would be the need to put in place some long-term solutions, particularly in the area of safety nets.

I did have the opportunity to meet with the provincial ministers of agriculture to advance the negotiations on the GRIP and NISA proposal, which is the long-term safety net and stabilization program. I am satisfied that progress is being made and I hope that we will be able to achieve a conclusion of all the outstanding details within the next week or 10 days.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Last year the government agreed to give the United States access to the Canadian market for ice-cream and yogurt after the GATT negotiations this fall. Now that the negotiations have been suspended, or at least put in limbo for the next several weeks, I want to know if the government plans to allow access for processed dairy products from the United States, like ice-cream and yogurt. If the government is going to do this, how is it going to see that Canadian producers survive because they do not have access to the U.S. market?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is wrong in his assumption. We did not agree to give the United States access to the ice-cream and yogurt market. We did say that we would be prepared to sit down and negotiate, but it would have to be within the terms of the over-all objectives achieved through the MTN.

After all, we did lose a GATT panel on the issues. The hon. member is a great fan of the GATT in this particular case and I can assure him that we will not negotiate any access with the Americans until such time as the MTN is concluded. The hon. member knows as well that the position we advanced with regard to the Canadian agriculture position at the MTN was fully consistent with his goals and objectives and the goals and objectives of Canadian agriculture. It would be commensurate, and reciprocal with us getting access to the American market under their removal of the section 22 waiver.

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### NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Last Friday, when he hoped that no one would notice, the Minister of Finance announced tax changes that have the effect of denying tax benefits worth \$50