

*Supply*

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, my point is very brief. I naturally want to let other members of the House have the opportunity to take part in this debate.

I asked the question about the Tokyo Round of negotiations very deliberately, because those who follow international trade negotiations will remember—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville.

**Mrs. Maheu:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. You mentioned that if there were no other members standing you would give a supplementary question to the hon. member. There were other members standing.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I did not see them, I am sorry. Is the right hon. member finished with his supplementary question?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, I regret this challenge of your authority in the House.

I am not surprised that the hon. Liberal member would not answer the question about the Tokyo Round because his colleagues in the House who are familiar with agriculture, perhaps more familiar than he is, will know that the biggest sell-out of Canadian agriculture in international trade negotiations occurred under a Liberal government in the negotiation of the Tokyo Round because the representatives of agriculture, farm groups, provincial governments and others, were excluded from the process of negotiation, excluded from the process of consultation.

He talked about the Uruguay Round. I had the opportunity to lead the Canadian delegation to the Uruguay Round three years ago and brought with me representatives of Canadian agriculture and started at that time a process of involving directly in the negotiations representatives of producer groups and of farm organizations from across the country. That has continued to be the case.

The hon. member has an obligation to this House to recognize that while there is chaos in international markets, it is part of the obligation of Canada to try to bring an end to that chaos and try to establish a situation in which Canadian farmers who on the basis of their ability are the best in the world can compete successfully in international markets. My question is: Why does he run away from that responsibility?

**Mr. Speller:** Mr. Speaker, the right hon. minister surely must know that the free trade agreement was the biggest sell-out to Canadian farmers in history.

With regards to consultation, the right hon. member should ask the part-time Minister of Agriculture what consultation he had with the farmers. Surely the minister must know that the Canadian farmers with him were not in the negotiating room; they were SAGITs. They were set up for consultation with you, but they were not in the negotiating room. In fact the Minister of Agriculture—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated. The hon. Solicitor General has the floor.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I don't know—

[English]

**Mr. Walker:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. You have completely ignored the Opposition and everybody else around here while you let the minister speak twice. Then you turn around—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. Solicitor General on debate.

[Translation]

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether we should blame these Liberal scare tactics on Hallowe'en, but while we are on the subject of our ability to consult, which was mentioned by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), I think we should recall that for sixteen years, a previous Liberal Government and more specifically its prime minister, never bothered to meet farm leaders, so we don't need your advice on how to consult!

Since 1984, the Prime Minister of Canada has met farm leaders nine or ten times. We established the consultation mechanisms you mentioned earlier, such as SAGIT, where farm producers were consulted at every stage of the Canadian Government's decisions concerning the future of agriculture. If there is one shortcoming we are certainly not guilty of, Mr. Speaker, it is failing to consult. In fact, during the last five years, farm producers have been consulted as they never have been before, and they have been involved in our negotiating process at the international and national level.