

Customs Tariff

sectors of the Canadian economy, but clearly none more important than for the dairy industry.

Under the treaty which the President and the Prime Minister will sign, tariffs on dairy commodities will be reduced by 17.5 per cent, and many groups like the Dairymen's Association are demanding that the Government impose quantitative tariff quotas on dairy commodities such as liquid milk, yoghurt and ice-cream. It has been promised by the Government that marketing boards and supply management would not be in the deal, but in fact they are in the deal, because the whole supply management marketing board system we have depends on the imposition of tariffs, quotas and supply management. In this case the Government is removing these tariffs, and that is how this motion becomes paramount.

The Canadian dairy farmers have recognized that the Government is playing fast and loose with the truth. It put out a statement on November 26 in which it was stated:

"The removal of tariffs therefore provides access for U.S. products into Canada while an expansion of the exportation of Canadian dairy products to the U.S. remains an impossibility", stated Mr. Waardenburg. Dairy Farmers of Canada is seeking an amendment to the Import Control List which would ensure full coverage of all dairy products, before the signing of the Agreement on January 2, 1988.

Mr. Waardenburg goes on his press statement:

Dairy Farmers of Canada did not oppose the trade negotiations with the United States because the federal government had clearly indicated its commitment to ensure that all the "underpinnings" required for the maintenance of an efficient milk supply management program in Canada would be unaffected. However, unless the federal government now demonstrates its sincere willingness to live up to this commitment Canadian milk producers will strongly oppose its initiative in the free trade agreement.

Yesterday it carried out that commitment. It met the Associate Minister of Agriculture in full force in Quebec. The headlines of the report of that meeting are pretty devastating. It was reported in the *Montreal Gazette* this morning. The headline reads: "Angry farmers scorch Minister for 'lying' about pact". The secondary headline from the inside page reads: "Farmers scorch Minister for 'lying' about pact". Clearly the dairy farmers of Canada are going to carry out the challenge they made to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) in their press statement of November 26.

The *Gazette* goes on to report that dairy farmers, especially those in Quebec, feel that the Government has tampered with the truth. The press reports indicate that the Associate Minister of Agriculture was pilloried yesterday by 2,500 angry farmers who accused him and the Conservative Government of lying about the Canada-U.S. free trade deal. The Minister came under heavy fire at the farmers' union convention, after trying to convince the audience that the proposed agreement would not hurt farmers.

● (1220)

Clearly, the Government has lost the trust of the farmers of this country. It should simply pass those amendments to the import control list. It may not regain the trust of farmers

generally, but it will help. The Americans have that in place now, so why is the Government not prepared to put similar restrictions in place with regard to milk and milk products, especially yoghurt and ice-cream?

This morning I asked the Deputy Minister of Agriculture if he has prepared amendments to the import quota list. He indicated that this was not before the Cabinet presently and he did not even indicate whether or not they would be put forward. He certainly gave the indication that they would not be put before January 2, as requested by the dairy farmers of Canada.

This mass demonstration against the Government will continue. It is reaching a fever pitch in the Province of Quebec, with the UPA presenting the junior Minister of Agriculture with a white rabbit, symbolic of what Canadian farmers got from the deal, compared to a horse which the Americans got from the trade deal. They did not open up their markets and have full quota restrictions on milk products going into the United States. Canada has granted extra quota throughout the dairy industry.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Would the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) please remove his coat?

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member just returned from the farmers' meeting in Quebec yesterday where he saw the junior Minister of Agriculture being pilloried by the UPA representatives.

Essentially, this is an amendment to the changes to the Tariff Act as will be made by the Government and the trade agreement which will commit the Government to making those changes, which could have a devastating impact on dairy farmers. It simply asks that these changes be brought before the House within 60 days.

The same would apply if a tariff were being increased. Once a treaty is signed, the Government is committed.

Mr. McDermid: You said you would tear it up.

Mr. Foster: Rather than the Prime Minister signing the agreement on January 2 and introducing legislation months later, why can those amendments to which the Government will be committed not be brought before the House within 60 days? I do not think the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade (Mr. McDermid) would see anything wrong with that. He is a strong believer in the parliamentary system and surely he would want to see tariff and trade-related items brought before the House and approved by the legislative body within 60 days, as proposed in this amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.