

Oral Questions

was undermined as a result of a GATT panel ruling that was brought down with respect to ice cream and yoghurt.

The hon. member across the way wants to quote selectively from the Dairy Farmers of Canada. This is what the Dairy Farmers of Canada have to say about this government's position today, October 16, 1990.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Mazankowski: It is very important to clarify this issue. This is what the Dairy Farmers have said today: "The federal government offer within the trade negotiations in agriculture under GATT covers three important aspects for the Canadian dairy industry."

"The first aspect deals with the clarification of Article XI of the GATT which permits the maintenance of import controls in the case of supply-management. This clarification is necessary in order to recognize the validity of applying such a program on dairy products as has been the case in Canada for the past 20 years.

"Dairy Farmers of Canada submitted to the federal government a detailed proposal several months ago in order to improve the actual wording of the article of GATT, which is fundamental to the maintenance and future development of our industry. In this regard, the position tabled by the federal government is fully supportive of the recommendations of the Dairy Farmers of Canada."

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

An hon. member: Read the second paragraph.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether or not I should ask my first question again. We did not hear what the government's policy was.

Yesterday, Carla Hills called on Europeans to ignore their farmers because they represent only 10 per cent of the population and cannot throw out a government.

Since Canadian farmers represent less than 4 per cent of our population, and since the Europeans have had difficulty distinguishing Canada's position from the Americans', have our negotiators accepted that same analysis that farmers do not matter any more?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the hon.

member has been reading what Carla Hills, the American trade negotiator has to say about the Canadian position. Our position is clearly well thought out. It is balanced, it is realistic and it reflects the reality of the Canadian agricultural industry. It will bring about order in the international marketplace, bring about some stability and security and hopefully some confidence in the total agricultural industry; and that is our bottom line.

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture just read the second paragraph of a statement that I had already quoted from, issued around two o'clock by the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

I ask the Minister of Agriculture why he stopped where he did and why he did not read the next paragraph which begins as follows:

"However, the government offer of a 5 per cent minimum access, by volume, to Canadian markets is unacceptable to Dairy Farmers of Canada" stressed Mr. Killoran.

Why did he not read that and put that on the record of *Hansard*?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, because I ran out of time.

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture says that he ran out of time when it came time to defend the interests of Canadian farmers.

I ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will table the entire statement, which will be found to have in it all the points I raised, which were the quotations from the president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. It says that the offer of 5 per cent and the other point I mentioned are totally unacceptable to the Dairy Farmers of Canada. If this government cares about the dairy farmers, why will it not accept that position and withdraw what it tabled at the GATT yesterday?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) and Minister of State (Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleague that in October 1989 the Dairy Farmers of Canada issued a document entitled *Necessary GATT Principles for Supply Management, Article XI*. The last paragraph of this document, paragraph (j), states: "—where no historical imports exist, permit the level of authorized imports of the product form to be not less than 1 per cent of the