

countries have borne greater tragedies than that from time to time.

**Senator Gigantès:** Tory times are tough times, starving times.

**Senator Roblin:** My friend can take refuge in that situation. I do not object to it. That is a legitimate debating point.

But I simply say this is a very complicated situation. I would not blame the government if they found that, after their best efforts, they could not make their point. If they do not make their best efforts, then I would criticize. But I think they are making their best efforts.

It is perfectly clear from the information that reaches us that, out of the hundred-odd nations in GATT, there are only a handful that support our position. So a realist has to say that it is a tough slog. It is not going to be easy.

● (1240)

I have not given up hope, however, because I think there are other interests involved and I have mentioned one, the United States and section 22. When those sort of issues percolate into the consciousness of the Congress of the United States, we may find some friends there whom we do not have at the present time. I hope that will be the case.

My main purpose in rising, however, is to point out to the chamber that my honourable friend has not covered the full consequence of what I think his policy recommendation is; that if we do not get our way on supply management we dump the GATT. That would be a very hard decision to make. But I do support him in his adjuration to the government negotiators, including the farming representatives who have gone with them and have been very helpful and strong in their support, which we generally appreciate. We encourage them and we do not lose hope. We keep on working. But we have to recognize that this is not an easy question and there are many different interests involved.

**Senator Olson:** Is that the position of the government? Is the government not going to respond to our position on this now?

**Senator Roblin:** I am happy to say that I speak for myself and myself alone. I do not in any way intend to involve my honourable friend, the Leader of the Government, in my cause. I speak as an interested citizen and, I hope, a responsible member of the Senate.

**Senator Gigantès:** That is probably the only straight thing we have heard all day from your side.

**Senator Olson:** When will we hear from the government whether the farmers are going to know?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have stated very briefly, but I think quite thoroughly, as recently as this morning during the oral Question Period, what the status of the situation is. I certainly could not have said it nearly as well, let alone better, than has Senator Roblin. I concur with everything he said as to the complexity and difficulty of the situation and as to the logical

outcome of the position that Senator Olson has been taking in this house.

Perhaps when we return on March 17 there will be something further to report. I fervently hope there will be, and if there is, I shall report it.

**Senator Olson:** I would like to ask just one other question, because I was not quite clear on this, this morning. I was very disappointed to hear the minister say that he did not think they would be letting anyone in Canada know what the response to Mr. Dunkel's script was going to be. The reason he gave was because it is a negotiating position, but are the producers going to know what Canada's response to that was, which, of course, was to substantially weaken Article XI?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, the position of the government with regard to the shortcomings of the Dunkel text have been made very clear on numerous occasions since the Dunkel text was tabled in late December.

One of our principal criticisms of the draft text concerns Article XI. We have made that clear. That will be clear again in the position that our negotiators take when they return to the table.

The mandate of our negotiators is, as it has been, to seek the strengthening and clarification of Article XI.

On motion of Senator Hébert, debate adjourned.

## ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO STUDY POLICY OPTIONS ON CONTROLLING EMISSIONS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Hays, seconded by the Honourable Senator Olson, P.C.,

That the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment, and Natural Resources be authorized to undertake a study of the policy options available to the government to achieve the objective of containing emissions associated with energy production and use in Canada with a view to improving the environment and to make recommendations thereon. Among these options are regulation; the use of economic instruments such as emission charges and taxes, subsidies and tradeable emissions permits; measures to enhance energy efficiency and conservation; and the promotion of energy alternatives; and

That the Committee present its final report no later than 30 November, 1992.—(Honourable Senator Nurgitz).

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, Senator Nurgitz has advised me that he does not intend to speak on this motion and I suggest that, unless someone else intends to speak, we can put the question today.