

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, September 16, 1983

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

TRADE

UNITED STATES ACTION AGAINST EXPORTATION OF CANADIAN POTATOES

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, during the past year the United States Department of Commerce, through its agencies, has been investigating the nature of trade in potatoes between Canada and the United States. It found that there was some reason to consider that there was both dumping and damage in shipments to the United States.

I submit that there was probably evidence under the letter of the law to substantiate those findings. I also submit to you that the traditional commodity trade between Canada and the United States has been going on nearly a century, and the nature of the business concerned was not taken into consideration as the letter of the law was applied.

I think it is imperative that all Ministers of the Crown who may be interested in agriculture or international trade should make the strongest possible representations to their counterparts in the United States, because this will be a benchmark decision. While it only relates to potatoes, it opens the door for comparable applications for consideration of dumping or damage under United States law by other commodity groups in the United States. It also gives Canada an opportunity to interfere with imports of horticultural products from the United States.

Any final decision by the ITC, which I understand would be reached on November 18, could be very detrimental to our historic trade practices—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

* * *

PARLIAMENT HILL

DEMAND THAT PEACE CAMP BE REMOVED

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. I am referring to the eyesore out on the front lawn of the Parliament Buildings. It started off several

months ago in one far corner of the lawn as an innocent little encampment of protest against Cruise missile testing. Now the Peace Camp has mushroomed into an unsightly and seemingly permanent fixture along the main walkway, and it looks like a rather shabby garage sale.

I am absolutely in favour of freedom of assembly and the right to protest on Parliament Hill, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. But I should remind Hon. Members that my Deputy Leader, the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), said in this House last June that peaceful demonstration is one thing, and permanent squatting is something else again. For that matter, why not allow the Farmers for Survival to camp out in their tractors on the front lawn? Or we could invite university students who cannot find accommodation in Ottawa to pitch tents out there. That makes about as much sense as allowing the Cruise missile protesters to continue to spread their wares all over Parliament's show-piece front lawn. That Peace Camp is growing like a weed.

The point I am making to you, Mr. Speaker, is that somebody should tell these people to clean up their act, more in keeping with the decorum of this place. It is a pretty crummy-looking first impression of Parliament Hill the way it is.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EFFECTS CAUSED BY SHOOTING DOWN OF KOREAN AIRLINER

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the recent action of the Soviet fighter shooting down a civilian Korean airliner over the Sea of Japan, which resulted in the loss of 269 lives, ten of them Canadians, is a cowardly act of barbarism which has few parallels in its magnitude in peacetime's civil aviation history.

By unanimous resolution, Members of the House have condemned this action, demanded a full and truthful explanation from the Soviets, called for a full and impartial investigation under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Civil Aviation Organization, and have demanded generous compensation for the families of Canadian victims, one of whom was from the Algoma district. No one in the House, however, can fully appreciate or feel the anguish, grief and despair of the parents and loved ones of those ten innocent Canadians who lost their lives in this senseless act. Our hearts go out to them at this time in sympathy for the loss of their loved ones.

The long-term implications of this tragedy are very serious as well. Good relations between nations and peoples are based on trust. This is especially true in the disarmament negotia-