

cases that are already before the courts, but I shall ask for a definitive reply for my colleague.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

MEETINGS OF HEADS OF STATE—EXCLUSION OF CANADA

Hon. H.A. Olson: I would like to ask one question. Could the Leader of the Government give us a progress report on how the Chancellor of Germany and the President of the United States are conducting our international trade negotiations?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have not seen any communiqué—perhaps my honourable friend has—from that meeting between the Chancellor of Germany and the President of the United States. Those two national leaders are having a bilateral conference, as is their habit, as is their right, as we Canadians do ourselves with our trading partners. More power to them. I hope they can make some progress, not only on bilateral but on multilateral issues. I simply hope that the honourable senator will be able to put aside his unbecoming paranoia about this matter.

Senator Olson: My paranoia is related somewhat to the seriousness of the problems involved. It is not an ordinary meeting. It is a meeting that they have set aside to substitute for a multinational meeting that was taking place in Geneva at which all 109 countries had a right to be at the table and to state their positions.

What troubled me yesterday was that the Leader of the Government indicated that that was quite all right with this government. We could withdraw and let those two negotiators decide what the trading negotiations for Canada were going to be.

If that is the position of the government, then we have abdicated our responsibility in favour of the leaders of those two nations. However, I can tell you this: Article XI will never survive because both of those negotiators are opposed to it. Is that what we intend to do with the position we have taken respecting Article XI?

• (1500)

Senator Murray: I am sure the honourable senator hopes Article XI will not survive, but we are doing everything possible to ensure that it does survive and, indeed, that it is strengthened and clarified. It is simply incredible that the honourable senator should object to the fact that the Chancellor of Germany and the President of the United States are meeting to discuss a range of bilateral and, of course, multilateral issues, near the top of which would be the Uruguay Round. We are at the table with some hundred other countries.

Senator Olson: Are you at the table at those meetings?

Senator Murray: Let me finish. We are at the table at Geneva with some hundred other countries in a very important multilateral negotiation. We have discussed the issues bilaterally with just about all of our major trading partners. I have told the honourable senator in another connection on several

occasions how the Prime Minister of Canada has been in touch with President Bush, with Chancellor Kohl, with Prime Minister Major, with President Mitterand, with the Italian government, with the Japanese, with the European Community. These are all bilateral discussions between our Prime Minister, our ministers and officials, and theirs. They concern the issues that are at stake at the multilateral negotiations. What in the world is wrong with that? That is the way business is done in the world. The honourable senator knows that. I cannot understand why he is abusing the time of the Senate to raise these false fears.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I have just one more supplementary question. I would tell the Leader of the Government that there is no false illusion about the pain and the suffering and the financial devastation that is going on in the grain sector of western Canada. If the Government of Canada has not received that message yet, it is my duty to be sure that I bring it to the attention of the Leader of the Government every single day that we meet. I have been trying to do that. So far, you have responded with absolute and abject failure on Canada's part in trying to negotiate the deal so we can get out of this mess. If you do not think it is serious, that is up to you.

I will tell you that your government is down to about 6 per cent support in Alberta, primarily because of this issue. I intend to get up on my feet and ask you about this matter every time that I can to convey to you at least the seriousness of this situation. It keeps getting worse.

What I am asking is: How long do you think those people can survive? You get up and you say, "Well, we sent some money in 1985 and 1986." That happens to be six or seven years ago. They have had no net income since that time because of the failure of this government to carry Canada's representations successfully into the GATT negotiations. If that does not impress the minister as to why I am asking these questions, then I simply do not understand what does.

Senator Murray: Well, first of all, the honourable senator was talking about Article XI. That is an area where we are—

Senator Olson: Article XI is linked with what I was talking about. It relates to farm subsidies.

Senator Murray: That is correct. First of all, the honourable senator was talking about Article XI, where we still are attempting to obtain strengthening and clarification and where the Dunkel text, for example, is not acceptable. Now the honourable senator is talking about the prairie grain economy, and I very much regret that what he is saying is that the Dunkel text is a failure so far as the prairie grain economy is concerned. I think that is not the impression that many in the prairie grain sector have. That is not an opinion that is shared by many. I think you would find that many people in the prairie grain sector are of the view that the Dunkel text would represent real progress in terms of their interests.

Senator Olson: I would just like to advise the minister—and he should know this without me having to tell him—that there are a lot of people in the prairie grain sector who believe that this government is pitting one against the other, and that