

It is indeed a shocking state of affairs that a Government Department would be party to such an illegal act. It is odious and offensive, to say the least.

Canada produces the best butter in the world, and it is an affront to our dairy producers by those responsible, to have their product downgraded in this manner. The bad publicity engendered by this act will have repercussions on our export markets.

How does this action square with the Government's decree to buy Canadian in its efforts to stimulate our over-all economy? How does this action square with the Government's efforts to maintain employment in the agriculture section which is already hard pressed? Not very well, to say the least, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, I call upon the Government to take immediate action to reprimand those responsible, and to make sure that such an occurrence will never take place again.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

TIMING OF VISITS BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the nation-wide concern caused by the irresponsible remarks of the Secretary of State, will the Prime Minister reassure millions of Canadians that the political aspirations or ambitions of the Liberal Party will not in any way interfere with the visits, as scheduled, of Her Majesty the Queen and His Holiness the Pope for later this year?

• (1415)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that question from another source might not surprise me, but this one does. The Leader of the Opposition has been clamouring for an election. He said we must have an election as soon as possible.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I guess they are getting cold feet over there because we have such a lot of good leadership candidates. I think it is obvious that, unless there is a dissolution before the middle of June, I will be in no position to declare when the election campaign will be. The Leader of the Liberal Party and then, hopefully, the Liberal Prime Minister, will decide when to advise His Excellency about dissolution.

I have a solution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: Run again, Pierre.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: If there should be an election during the Queen's visit or the Pope's visit I see no reason why the then Liberal Leader or the Opposition Leader should get involved. There would be two former Prime Ministers, the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead and myself, who could do well in escorting the Queen around.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE VISITS WILL NOT BE CANCELLED

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is quite right when he says that we have been asking for an election as soon as possible, that is, while he was there.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Now, it gets better and better every day—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: —as one putative successor after another repudiates and contradicts what this distinguished Prime Minister has tried to do for 20 years. That is what is happening in the Liberal Party.

The Prime Minister will acknowledge that his attempt at humour did nothing to dispel the grave concerns of millions of Canadians that the Liberal Party is contemplating using these two very important visits for political advantage. I want his assurance, and I hope he can give it to me, that these visits of Her Majesty the Queen and the Pope will go forward as scheduled, that they will not be abruptly cancelled to serve the partisan ends of the Liberal Party, to the dismay of millions of Canadians. Can he give that assurance right now?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the preamble was not imbued with any more logic than the question itself. If the Hon. Member is also a putative successor to the job of Prime Minister, I do not see why he is distressed that I am being repudiated by other successors, because he has been repudiating my policies for a long while. Certainly a long while ago he wanted to have an election so he would be able to repudiate my policies and actions.

The logic of asking me to give a guarantee of what might happen after my writ has ceased to run some time in June is certainly unconstitutional. How can I possibly decide when there should be an election or not if it is called after I have ceased being Prime Minister? I would like the Leader of the Opposition to think about that.

INQUIRY WHETHER ASSURANCES SOUGHT BY ORGANIZERS OF VISITS

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister indicate if he has received requests for such reassurances from the organizers at the Palace or at the Vatican, and from those charged with this