

*Oral Questions*

We are working on that file. As soon as information is available, I will provide it to her and to all Canadians.

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### AGRICULTURE

**Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that eight provincial ministers of agriculture, representing 88 per cent of dairy production in Canada and 81 per cent of poultry production, and at this point the majority of premiers, have signed a declaration in support of supply management and rejecting tariffication in any form, will the Prime Minister assure this House that he will support the premiers, the provincial ministers, and Canada's poultry and dairy producers in their cause to retain the best marketing systems in the world that have not required subsidies nor contributed to world surpluses?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have been doing this in excess of two years.

In regard to the questions raised we did not need, although we appreciated, the recent support of the provincial premiers. We have been in the forefront of fighting the case at the GATT in respect of article XI, its clarification, its strengthening. There has been no change in the Canadian position.

The minister of trade, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of State for Agriculture and myself have met with world leaders to press our case at the GATT and elsewhere. There has been no change in our position. We stand fully behind the Canadian producers in what we view as a most important, not only political initiative and economic initiative, but a social one inasmuch as it impacts very strongly on their lives. We want to defend them. I will be meeting with the farmers very soon in this regard.

• (1440)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** On that same topic, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Agriculture. The Quebec Minister of Agriculture signed a declaration supporting supply management as an agricultural system and rejecting any form of a tariff system. Can the Minister of State for Agriculture assure this House today that he supports this declaration

from the Quebec minister and Quebec producers as being the *only* true means of safeguarding agriculture as it has been built up in the last 20 years within GATT?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure my colleague that everybody was in agreement at the meeting of agriculture ministers held here in Ottawa last Thursday and Friday. Ministers from every province and the federal minister all agreed on the Canadian position. I should tell my colleague that I personally met Mr. Dunkel on several occasions, as well as the delegates in Europe and here in Canada, to reaffirm the Canadian position.

We are experiencing difficulties; that is a fact and we do not deny it. But the Canadian position was jointly with the Canadian farmers, and it is with them that we will continue to defend it. I urge my colleague not only to support the Quebec Minister of Agriculture but also the Canadian Minister of Agriculture who defends that position, because together we will be able to maintain the Canadian position.

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[*English*]

### TRADE

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North):** Mr. Speaker, United States congressmen have had an opportunity to review the consolidated document that represents whatever progress has been made toward an agreed text of the U.S.—Canada—Mexico agreement.

Will the government afford members of Parliament the same opportunity to review the document in response to the all-party call of more than a year ago "for close consultations with Parliament as the North American free trade negotiations proceed"?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, I will be meeting with the standing committee to discuss the NAFTA tomorrow.

I just remind him that there have been six reports tabled by the Government of Canada since July of 1991, up until the middle of last year, which set out a number of aspects of relevance to the free trade negotiations. We have had extensive discussions with the provinces, with the private sector through the International Trade Advi-