

Oral Questions

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

supply management, considering allowing the free flow of dairy products from the United States into Canada under a projected free trade agreement?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think we have previously answered that question. It was answered in the contents of the resolution and answered during the course of the debate. I want the Leader of the New Democratic Party to pay particular attention to this because, while I did not see him on *The Journal* last night, I sure had a lot of calls from farmers who were very critical of his comments. There is no question about that. He made some rather interesting comments about western farmers. This Government looks at agriculture from coast to coast. We are concerned about Canadian farmers regardless of from which region they happen to come and from which they produce food, I can tell him that.

● (1450)

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I did not receive an answer to my question. Is the Government guaranteeing that the free flow of dairy products and other supply management products will not be allowed after a free trade agreement is signed?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have some difficulty with Hon. Members across the way. I do not know whether it is their lack of understanding or their reluctance to listen to us and to read *Hansard*. I have answered the question on many occasions here and across the country. I ask the Hon. Member to listen very carefully.

We indicated that the Government gave a firm commitment to support the existence of the marketing boards and to decide in Canada their future. When that is done, and if one fully understands the manner in which they operate, it is necessary to maintain at the same time those underpinnings which are necessary for them to work.

Members opposite are interested in the Auto Pact and so on. We clarified that the other day with the debate on free trade. If they really understood the marketing board system, particularly those concerned with supply management, then we could call CEMA the Canada-U.S. egg pact. We could call the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency the chicken pact. We sat down—

Some Hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Wise: There is not much difference. We sat down with the Americans and we negotiated import levels.

REPORTED PROPOSAL TO MANUFACTURE DASH-8 AIRCRAFT IN CHINA

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On Monday I asked the Minister if he had authorized production of de Havilland's Dash-8s in China, something which de Havilland is prohibited from doing without his permission. He said, as reported at page 4175 of *Hansard*, that he had looked into the matter and was convinced that de Havilland had no intention of handing over some of its production contracts to China. De Havilland officials have indicated the opposite, that the Minister is wrong and that negotiations are under way to manufacture some of the Dash-8 production in China. Why was the Minister unaware of this, since his approval is required for it to take place? Does the Minister agree, and if so why, jobs should be created in China using the technology that was paid for by Canadian taxpayers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I did respond to this question, and I also said that the Government was very concerned. Of course when we concluded the sale of de Havilland we made sure that the technology and the jobs would be kept in Canada.

Since the deal was finalized, Mr. Speaker, more than 1,000 jobs have been created, which goes to show that the Government fully respects its mandate in this regard.

My colleague refers to certain negotiations or discussions. Mr. Speaker, of course de Havilland management are expected to seek new markets and, obviously, this may entail negotiations and discussions. But at this time no deal between China and de Havilland has been officially sanctioned.

POSSIBLE CREATION OF JOBS IN CHINA BY DE HAVILLAND FOR MANUFACTURE OF DASH-8 AIRCRAFT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared to say now that he will not let de Havilland export jobs for the production of Dash-8 aircraft in China? Is it clear that this technology will be used exclusively to create jobs here in Canada?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): What is clear, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government remains convinced and anxious that the existing agreement with de Havilland must be respected. As it happens, it guarantees that the aerospace industry, the jobs and the technology will remain in Canada, and that is precisely what we want to do.