

Oral Questions

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as I think has been indicated here this week, we are still of course fully engaged in attempting to resolve the problems that developed in the latter stages of the Uruguay Round at Brussels two weeks ago. That process is continuing. I am keeping in touch with other trade ministers, particularly from the United States, the European Community and other countries. I am hopeful that certainly by the end of February that the round can be successfully completed. Whether that will be so or not, of course only time will tell.

We have not changed our own position, but we are prepared certainly to review it. We are reviewing it and we are prepared to be flexible if other people are prepared to be flexible as well. That is what is necessary if there is to be a resolution of these problems.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, does the government prefer to have a solution that will freeze and reduce the export subsidies or is it seriously looking at the kind of proposal that Premier Grant Devine put forward of having a food tax to finance the further subsidization of food production in this country?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether the hon. gentleman is in favour of a food tax. When we mention taxes around here usually they turn purple in the face at the very mention of a tax. We will take the hon. member's suggestion that there should be a food tax imposed in Canada under consideration. But it would not be for very long, I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, before we would be forced to reject that.

With respect to the negotiations on agriculture, to have a solution to that, the GATT rules must apply to agriculture. We must have a definite position taken by the countries concerned with export subsidies, border measures and internal support, otherwise the final outcome could be negotiated. But the parameters are very clear. There must be a definite commitment with respect to those areas.

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EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROLS ACT

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the Minister for International Trade a question

regarding a matter that has significant implications for Canada's defence industry. Provisions of the Criminal Code effectively inhibit Canadian industry exports to our friends and allies.

• (1500)

The government has been repeatedly requested by affected Canadian industry to bring forward legislation to permit these exports, subject of course to strict controls under the Export and Import Permits Act.

My question to the minister has two parts. First, will the government introduce such legislation and, second, if so, when?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is well aware of the problem that exists with reference to one of our export industries. I think one of those concerns is located in the hon. gentleman's district. He has been very diligent in bringing forward the problem and in urging a solution.

The answer is that legislation is prepared and will be introduced shortly after the House returns.

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MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Some 77 persons on average die world-wide each year of cardiac arrest while aboard commercial aircraft. Many European airlines provide the defibrillators for medical personnel aboard flights in case of emergencies.

What is the minister doing about the need for defibrillators and other life saving medical supplies on board our passenger airlines?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my friend raises an important issue which probably arises as a result of a very unfortunate incident this last weekend.

I have reviewed the situation, and I have asked my officials to begin to prepare the necessary amendments to the air navigation orders to require that flight attendants be trained in CPR.

My hon. friend makes an additional suggestion. I will take that up with my officials in the airlines and get back to him.