

some relief when the other members of the Summit realized that I would certainly be here until the beginning of June.

As to the more serious part of the question, the agendas are being discussed these very days by the personal representatives of the various summiters who have been meeting in San Diego, after having met in various—

Mr. Beatty: That is similar to Mouseketeers.

Mr. Trudeau: —the Musketeers? Well, if we want to get knowledgeable about it, those representatives are called sherpas, a sherpa being a person who leads a person to the summit.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: That is much more appropriate than Musketeer, or summiteer or whatever.

The agenda is being prepared. It is not in the hands of any one country, but naturally the host country is the decisive element in it. I would be happy to transfer to my sherpa for their next meeting any suggestions made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition or members of his Party for adding to or subtracting from the agenda.

* * *

TRADE

LOW PRICE OF IMPORTED VEGETABLES

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the potato growers in the Fraser Valley dropped the price of potatoes by \$40 a ton to meet Washington competition. Three hours later the United States dropped their price by \$5 or maybe \$10 a ton. The price of B.C. onions has been dropped by \$5 a hundredweight and they are selling below the cost of production.

It may be that the cost of living has gone down, but, if it has, it has gone down because the U.S. product can be dumped on the Canadian market below the cost of Canadian production.

The Minister refuses to put on a surtax in order to protect the Canadian farmer. Is it his intention that the Canadian farmer go out of business and that the Canadian consumer be abandoned to the corporate interests of the United States?

● (1200)

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, of course that is not the intention of the Government. The intention of the Government is to provide whatever assistance the Minister of Agriculture, for example, thinks is appropriate to help that sector of the agricultural economy.

Second, in looking at that problem and that particular area of the agriculture sector and the relationship with the producers on both sides of the Canada-United States border, the Government of Canada wants to ensure that the relationship is

Business of the House

one that is conducted in accordance with international conventions and rules. There is a remedy for any complaints that the producers may have. There is a procedure and an investigation which can be followed under the due process under those conventions.

We would be happy to have representations. We would follow the normal course in seeing whether any undue advantage was taken by the procedures in the United States.

* * *

[Translation]

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, March 17, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DISPOSITION OF BILL C-653 AND BILL C-43

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Government House Leader. On Wednesday last the House agreed to pass Bill C-653 and send it to the Standing Committee on Agriculture. It has become apparent, at least to me, that there are some problems in getting that Bill through. The Steering Committee of the Agriculture Committee has not yet met and will not meet until Tuesday next. The Bill is required to be dealt with in all stages here, go through the Senate and receive Royal Assent before we leave if we are to fulfil the obligation we have made to the farming community. Could the Government House Leader and the House Leader of the Official Opposition make it clear that it is the wish of the House of Commons that Bill C-653 be dealt with expeditiously, reported back as quickly as possible, at the very least in time for it to be dealt with here and to go through the various other stages necessary to make it law?

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, we have agreed to send the Bill to Committee. It is the intention of the Government to see that this Bill is proceeded with expeditiously, but we do not want to meddle with the business of the Committee. The committees are master of their own procedure.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: I understand there are some Tory Members on the Committee. The minute the Bill is reported by the Committee, I can assure the Hon. Member that it will be considered very seriously. Yes, we want this Bill to be considered very seriously, efficiently and as early as possible.