

Oral Questions

results toward the elimination of apartheid than would the approach advocated by the hon. gentleman and members of his Party.

REQUEST THAT AGRICULTURAL SANCTIONS BE IMPOSED

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that Canada was going to lead by example. Additional sanctions were applied last week which bespoke triviality or ineffectualness and, in some instances, are quite laughable in the eyes of those to whom they are to apply. In view of the fact the Government is supposed to be manifesting leadership, why does it not apply the agricultural sanctions which everyone recognizes are likely to be most effective if imposed by Canada, and most likely to represent a model which other nations could follow?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): I find it rather surprising that the hon. gentleman would put that view forward when those black nations which have commented on the initiatives taken by Canada lauded those initiatives. They have had nothing but good to say about those initiatives. The Eminent Persons Group has said that the lead taken by Canada serves as an example for other nations, and urges that they do so.

Again I say it is apparent that our views are no different, but the approaches obviously are. We have the conviction that we are following the most prudent and productive course that can be followed.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that Canada has received congratulations and respect from black nations of the world. There is one area in which Canada has failed to get plaudits. That concerns the complicity of this country with respect to the American alliance with South Africa *vis-à-vis* Namibia which is just as much a part—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. McCurdy: Why has the Government not resigned from the Contact Group as a clear signal that we will not be a handmaiden of American complicity in South African oppression?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this Government has demonstrated very vividly and very clearly that we among nations of the world are following an independent foreign policy approach. This approach is one which even his own external affairs critic has complimented. It lies ill in his mouth to be critical of the position taken by the critic of his own Party.

• (1425)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—POSITION OF ALBERTA PREMIER

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister will know that the Premier of Alberta, Don Getty, is quoted in *The Globe and Mail* today as saying that Canada should consider suspending free trade talks with the United States until after American congressional elections this fall.

I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he agrees with Mr. Getty's assessment that President Reagan is unable to control Congress and therefore, presumably, he is unable to keep his commitments to the Prime Minister until after the congressional election year is over?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member has a somewhat vivid imagination, and is reading into Mr. Getty's statement more than is there.

He said we should continue our talks at this time for several months and then make a determination as to whether or not they should continue in view of the mid-term elections.

It is our opinion that those talks must continue because they are vital to the future of this country.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister for International Trade could tell the House whether or not it is part of the 90-day probation period that the provinces have given the federal Government, whether as part of that probation period that, 90 days down the road, if progress is not being made because of the political atmosphere in the United States these free trade talks will be suspended? Is that a condition under which the provinces at the last meeting with the federal Government agreed to provide a 90-day period for the federal Government to proceed?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, again the saga of the vivid imagination continues. There is no such 90-day period. What the Prime Minister and the Premiers agreed upon was to meet every three months to review the progress to date and to be brought up to date.

The Hon. Member from that Party is unable to recognize consultation because his Party never indulged in it when they were in power.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!