

Canada led 46 nations in signing a treaty to reduce chlorofluorocarbons which destroy the ozone layer. Yesterday the Prime Minister said that an acid rain treaty must be a priority with the United States or it could cost our friendship. Could the Minister tell the House where Canada and the U.S. really stand on acid rain and how many nations have actually ratified the treaty?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that Canada provided a great deal of leadership towards the Montreal Protocol on Ozone-depletion. It is an historic document inasmuch as it is a first global treaty on the atmosphere. We hoped it might be a central part of an international Law of the Air, of which another part might well be an international accord on acid rain, towards which objective we are working hand in glove with other countries, including those of the European Community. I am advised by my senior people today that negotiations are going well.

In the meantime we think it terribly important within Canada to provide an example to the Americans, and to others, by slashing acid rain-causing emissions at source, in the case of sulphur dioxide emissions, by 50 per cent by 1994, a very substantial achievement by this Government.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ARTICLE XI—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. It concerns the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the present negotiations. Last week, during a visit to Washington by the Agriculture Committee of the House of Commons, the Assistant Trade Representative for Agriculture, Suzanne Earley, stated to our committee that the United States administration's position was to abolish or at least to render useless Article XI of the GATT which permits border controls for supply managed agricultural commodities.

● (1500)

Given that this position is supported by the Cairns Group, of which Canada is a member, can the Minister inform the House why Canada is supporting a measure which could render useless or abolish supply management in Canada?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that that is nothing more than utter and sheer nonsense. We have to respect the fact that the Americans will take certain positions at the multilateral trade negotiations, as will a number of the other 93 countries.

We have made our position very clear as a Canadian Government that we support the system of supply management. We support the right for Canadian farmers to determine

what marketing system best suits their own needs. That is why we have written Section 710 into the Canada-U.S. trade arrangement, and made specific reference to Article XI in the GATT.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. It is clear that in this case, Canada is certainly being "harmonized" by the Americans.

My question is this: In view of the fact that this very day, the members of the Canadian Egg Marketing Board are holding in Ottawa their Fifteenth Annual Meeting, could the Minister or his colleague the Minister for International Trade explain to us how the Tory Government can support the position of the United States and that of the Cairns countries before the GATT, when they are seeking to abolish our supply management system in Canada? How could the Canadian Government justify their support of these organizations?

[English]

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we will not be taken in by any nonsense any more than we will be taken in by the position of the Hon. Member. In fact I have been advised, quite appropriately by my colleague the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds, who has been actively involved in the Cairns Group, that indeed the Hon. Member is misrepresenting the Cairns Group on Article XI of the GATT.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question in Question Period.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

TORONTO HALF-WAY HOUSE—REQUEST FOR AUDIT

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. The Minister will know that although the Pepino inquiry concentrated on privately operated Toronto half-way houses there are allegations of serious violations of security and supervision at the government operated Keele Street Detention Centre. The Minister will also know that, although he has ordered an audit and the removal of violent offenders from Exodus Link and Montgomery House, no similar order has been issued regarding government operated half-way houses.

Will the Minister order an independent audit of all government operated half-way houses in Toronto, and the removal of violent offenders from the Keele Street Detention Centre?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that the only federal government run half-way house in Toronto is the Keele Street