

*Oral Questions*

After what the Milgaard family, and David Milgaard in particular, have been through because of delays in this matter, I think it is time to show some humanity. I want to know why the government will not provide that David Milgaard be released on bail so that the Milgaard family have a merry Christmas finally after 23 years.

• (1140)

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, as my hon. colleague has indicated, the Minister of Justice did announce her decision today to refer the case to the Supreme Court.

I understand that with respect to the specific question of my hon. colleague that the minister has indicated that it would be up to Mr. Milgaard's attorneys to make such a request to the appropriate court.

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Madam Speaker, if the government follows the procedure that was set forth in the Donald Marshall case, David Milgaard could be out on bail by Christmas and Mrs. Milgaard, who is truly a remarkable woman, would have her son home for the holidays.

I want to have assurance from the government and will the government give me the assurance that it will provide in its reference to the Supreme Court of Canada that the Supreme Court entertain a motion for bail from Mr. Milgaard and his lawyers and that they will deal with it expeditiously.

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, again as I have indicated, the Minister of Justice in answer to a similar question this morning indicated that the attorneys of Mr. Milgaard should make the appropriate request.

I understand that on another matter Mr. Milgaard has already benefited from escorted releases in the past and I understand that he obviously will be eligible for such temporary releases in the future, unless the court gives him bail as the hon. member suggests.

[*Translation*]

**AGRICULTURE**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Madam Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

As he knows, over the past 20 years, marketing boards for milk, turkey, chicken and eggs have been extremely important to farmers in this country, especially to milk producers in Quebec, who account for nearly 50 per cent of Canada's milk production.

As a point of clarification, Madam Speaker, since it is so important for farmers, could I have assurance from this minister now that in the GATT negotiations, the Canadian government will protect these marketing boards which are essential to the survival of agriculture in this country? Can I have categorical assurance from this Minister of Agriculture?

[*English*]

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member asks a question that is important, not only to the province of Quebec and those producers, but to producers throughout Canada.

There is a large percentage of production in Quebec in the dairy industry, as he referred to. I can only say to the hon. member that the position that has been developed and put forward by the Government of Canada, that of strengthening and clarification of article XI as it now exists under the GATT, is a position that was developed with the producers. As late as yesterday in discussions with the farm leadership, that position will be maintained.

The hon. member is suggesting that Canada, being one of 108, has the ability to control the outcome of GATT. What we have the ability to do, as everyone else has the ability to do, is to put forward a position that is in the best interests of our producers and we will continue to do that.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Madam Speaker, I will put a direct question that I think is very important.

If article XI is not strengthened and in view of the importance of these marketing boards for the producers for a stable income and consumers for a stable supply of food products in these areas, can the Minister of Agriculture assure us that if the marketing board system is weakened in any way that he would recommend that his government not sign a new GATT agreement that would deprive us as Canadians of the right to protect our own farmers in this country. Yes or no to that very specific question.