

My point is that thanks to 20 years of hard work, the Canadian people and Canadian farmers, have set up a system unequalled in this world.

• (1650)

And I say, Mr. Speaker—and I am sure we can get the unanimous consent of this House for sending a clear resolution to all GATT participants—that Canada, that this country's representatives cannot approve the Dunkel report because it does not make sense and goes against the interests of all farmers across this country. We should not have to pay for other people's mistakes.

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to my hon. colleague from Gatineau—La Lièvre. Indeed, I believe we do agree on how important marketing boards are for Quebec and Canadian farm producers. For one thing, my colleague will certainly recognize that our current position is the position Canada stated in April 1990, and later made clearer and more detailed in the fall of 1990. My hon. colleague should recognize or realize that everyone is in agreement. I can understand his passionate plea. However, would he not agree that, as we speak, the Canadian provinces, including Quebec, the federal government, the producers' organizations, the processors' organizations, the Canadian agrifood industry from coast to coast, are all behind this position? Does he not think it would be in the best interests of our Quebec and Canadian farmers that we stand united on this issue and back the Government of Canada and its negotiators in Geneva? Will he not agree with me that the Canadian position has obviously not changed and has the full support of the Canadian farmers?

**Mr. Assad:** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague said, the minister seems to be saying the right things, but the actions do not match the words. Like the minister, I say that with all the support we have, farmers and organizations in all the provinces agree to support supply management, but that poses a problem. I find that it is perhaps the last effort, but our partners in GATT will have to be unanimous and be firmly convinced that it is a necessity for Canada, such a northerly country, where

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farming conditions are exceptional, not to accept less than what exists. They must also understand that we are at a point of no return, if you will, with our agricultural system and we cannot accept a change. I am convinced that they cannot neglect the resolve of all 10 provinces and members of this House which we can show all our partners.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Resuming debate. I would like the first speaker for the New Democratic Party to tell us how his party intends to proceed: will they take 20 minutes each or share their time? The hon. member for Chambly.

**Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, we will make the following clarification. I intend to speak for 10 minutes, with a five-minute question period, and then I think my colleague will share the rest of the time with me.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take part in this debate on my colleague's motion regarding GATT.

The first thing that comes to my mind when we talk about GATT and the negotiations of our federal government is a Quebec saying to the effect that they talk a lot but do little. I think that pretty well summarizes our fear about how the government negotiates.

Mr. Speaker, since September 1986, the 108 member countries of GATT have been involved in a new round of more ambitious negotiations to liberalize international trade throughout the world. We were rather surprised to read in the press that the Dunkel report provided for a tariff system to replace our supply management system. It was a surprise, but we were very worried to find that out, because remember that the Dunkel report, which takes its name from the director-general of GATT, is meant to summarize the state of negotiations and serve as a basis for settling this new round of negotiations called the Uruguay round.

To properly understand the issues, Mr. Speaker, you must see how the Dunkel report deals with the question of subsidies, which we are used to as a part of supply management, especially in Quebec, because for a long time we have spent, I believe, almost \$800 million a year on all sorts of subsidies for our farm sector.