

Point of Order

permit the extension of export subsidies for the sale of U.S. wheat into Canada.

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises a very good point. It is a very serious one as far as the government is concerned.

He is right. We have harvested a better than average crop. It has come off in good condition. We find totally unacceptable the bill that was passed in the U.S. Senate about 10 days ago, targeting specifically Canadian markets.

We are examining very thoroughly and very carefully the possibilities of pursuing an action under the free trade agreement. Once that advice is complete, we will then be in a position to make a decision.

In the meantime we are making strong representations to the U.S. administration to not see that the bill comes into law because, if it does come into law, there are some very pertinent implications as far as the free trade agreement is concerned that we intend to pursue.

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• (1500)

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker my question is also for the Minister of Agriculture. Both dairy and poultry producers across Canada are concerned about the future of supply managed commodity sectors and therefore the future of the Canadian product that is produced by those farmers.

When the Canadian position on agriculture is tabled at GATT on or before October 15, can we have the minister's assurance that the supply management programs will not be jeopardized but will be strengthened by better support in Article XI of GATT and further, that they will not be compromised by any Canadian support for the aggregate measure of support formula?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. colleague knows that the balanced position Canada has developed with respect to our position at the GATT negotiations has

been brought about as a result of extensive consultations with the provincial governments and with all sectors of the agricultural industry. I think it is fair to say that there is general approval for the position that Canada has taken.

We have proposed the strengthening and clarification of Article XI and have outlined the manner in which that will be done. The position we have taken is that we are asking all participating countries to reduce trade distorting levels of support in all three areas. We consider that the aggregate measure of support is a useful tool in terms of monitoring the level of that support. What we are proposing are really reductions that would be considered to be direct support by the government. Of course that would all be conditional upon the other participating countries taking similar action.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of the Right Honourable Roland Michener, former Governor General of Canada and former Speaker of the House of Commons.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I wish also to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of the Honourable Dr. Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia and Dr. Zarko Domljan, President of the Croatian Parliament.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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POINT OF ORDER**UNVEILING OF STATUE OF LESTER B. PEARSON**

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order concerning the unveiling of the statue to Lester B. Pearson later this afternoon. I believe you will find consent for the following motion:

That, once the deferred division in relation to Government Business No. 17 on the Order Paper is completed later today, the sitting of the