

Our position has not changed. We have consulted with the industry throughout these negotiations. Our position was developed with the industry and that is the position that Canada has today. It is the position we are supporting in these direct negotiations with other countries.

We know from experience that supply management is an effective marketing system. It has worked and it has been working hard to evolve to market demands. It has shown its flexibility over the last number of years in being able to adjust to accommodate change.

One point I would like to draw to the attention of members is that the industry, both the processing and the producing, and the governments worked hard on the dairy task force, the poultry task force. They are designed to allow the supply managed industries to continue to adjust in the future.

Our position going into GATT was to support supply management. We have that position today. It is a position that I am quite comfortable in continuing to defend. In fact, we have intensified our consultation with government and industry which has been a constant factor over the last number of years in developing our position. I am confident that the industry is aware of the position that the government has presented on their behalf. They have been with us. They have been with us in Geneva and in other areas around the world where we have presented Canada's position, which is supported by the industry.

No one can be sure how the GATT talks will end. I know that members understand there is a benefit to freer and fairer trade in the world and there is much to gain. Although Canada is large geographically, it is not large when it comes to the strength of our economy. Canada does have a benefit in having trade law that allows us a way to defend against the pocketbooks or the treasuries of more powerful trading blocs.

As I have said, the next deadline is March 1. That date is important. It may not remain constant. It may shift. We have seen changes in the dates of this round in the past. As a matter of fact, it may be important to draw to the attention of the House that the original schedule for concluding the Uruguay round was a little over a year ago, about 13 months ago, December 1990. Because

### *Supply*

people faced the reality that there could be a failure of a very important agreement to the international economy if there was a failure of this round, we have redoubled our efforts over the last number of months to present our case.

I can assure all members of the House that it is important to the Government of Canada. It so important that the Prime Minister is inviting national farm leaders to meet with him and government ministers on Tuesday, February 18 in Ottawa to discuss the agricultural component of multilateral trade negotiations.

**An hon. member:** Don't take credit for things you don't do.

**Mr. McKnight:** Mr. Speaker, another Liberal speaks from his seat.

I would like everyone to understand how it is important to the government and it is important that we be able to come together, I would like to present a motion to amend the opposition motion.

I move:

That the motion be amended

(a) by striking out, in the first paragraph, the words "call on the government to support unequivocally" and substituting the following:

"supports the government's efforts toward reaching";

(b) by deleting, in paragraph (c), the words "in its present form";

(c) by striking out, in paragraph (c), the word "was" and substituting the following:

"is"; and

(d) by striking out, in paragraph (e), all the words after "governments" and substituting the following:

"in co-operation and at the request of affected industries to provide impact assessments."

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The Chair will take the motion in amendment moved by the Minister of Agriculture under advisement. We will now proceed with questions and comments.

[*English*]

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, it is commendable that the government has agreed not to make this a motion of confidence in the government because we need to come together as a House of Commons to bring all possible pressure to bear in the