

*Adjournment Debate*

That is why I am here. That is why the hon. member is here. We are all here to work in the interests of Canadians to make sure we have a society that is equitable, that is working, a society where each and every individual is a person of dignity, of worth and able to participate fully in Canadian society.

[Translation]

**The Deputy Speaker:** It being 5.55 p.m., pursuant to order made Wednesday, February 2, 1994, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith all questions necessary to dispose of the motion in relation to Government Order No. 4, now before the House.

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Deputy Speaker:** All those in favour will please say yea.

**Some hon. members:** Yea.

**The Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. members:** Nay.

**The Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to order made Wednesday, February 2, 1994, the recorded division stands deferred until Tuesday, February 8, 1994, at six o'clock.

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## ADJOURNMENT PROCEEDINGS

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

### DAIRY INDUSTRY

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening under Standing Order 37(3) to discuss a question I had in question period the first day of this session.

I know when I was on the other side of the House not too many members on this side of the House got up under this standing order.

However, I thought it might give me an opportunity to discuss a serious situation in my riding and in ridings across this country

regarding Canada's position as it came out of the GATT negotiations regarding ice cream and yogurt. At that time I asked the minister what he was doing and how the negotiations were going with the Americans.

There is a lot of concern out there that over the past few years the government has not stood up for the rights of Canadian farmers when negotiating with the Americans on these issues.

In fact there are many in my riding of Haldimand—Norfolk who feel that the government has failed in any attempt over the past few years to put a strong argument forward on behalf of Canadian farmers.

I ask the minister if he would not stand up to the Americans and tell them we are not prepared to cave in to their position on ice cream and yogurt which was essentially to lower those tariffs to zero immediately.

• (1800)

The minister may not be aware of a legal decision that has come forward to us from the dairy farmers of Canada that in fact supports the Canadian position that we can put a tariff on ice cream and yogurt. I know the minister will be very pleased to hear this. In fact Richard Doyle of the Dairy Farmers of Canada says in a letter:

The drafters of the NAFTA text clearly recognized that GATT rights and obligations would not be static, but grow and change with the agreements negotiated under the GATT. In light of the extensive references to developments and future agreements under GATT, it appears unlikely that a successful argument could be made against Canada's decision to reduce tariff levels according to its GATT rights and obligations. In reviewing the legal opinion, valid arguments have been identified to support the position that your government took during the GATT negotiations.

I have here a legal opinion by the American law firm, Cameron and Hornbostel. I am sure the hon. minister does not have this legal opinion yet because it was just sent out. It is dated February 1.

I am sure when he receives it he will look at it and make it very clear to the Americans that unless we can negotiate a deal we do intend to keep these tariffs on ice cream and yogurt. In fact, we will fight as hard as we can to make sure that we have a continued supply management system in this country and a viable agriculture sector.

**Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to reply to my colleague's comments. I commend him for the interest that he has shown and continues to show on this issue.

There are a number of outstanding agri-food trade issues that are being discussed and are problems between Canada and the United States at the present time. The Minister of Agriculture attempted to resolve these while he was in Geneva but the Americans did not see fit to take part in those discussions at that time and unfortunately we were not able to get a bilateral agreement.