

pronouncing the mission of our colleagues to Europe as having been a failure. That kind of statement can only play into the hands of our adversaries in the world.

I wish to tell the honourable senator that so far as the Dunkel text is concerned, Mr. Dunkel has been quite clear that possible changes can only be addressed if there are a number of countries sharing the same concern regarding the Dunkel text. We will not know for sure until the various countries submit their draft offers on March 1.

● (1620)

Second, the testimony of Mr. Wilson and other cabinet colleagues is that the mission to Europe was very important in terms of reinforcing Canada's position and conveying to our European interlocutors that there is a national consensus in this country in support of a balanced position on agriculture. Further to that, for the first time we obtained, in the course of this mission to Europe, an unambiguous declaration from the EEC Commission, and support from Germany as well, regarding the clarification of Article XI of the GATT.

**Senator Olson:** That is interesting. Has the Canadian government failed or neglected—whichever word you like best—to convey the view to those governments or members of the GATT that there was a consensus or consistent view in Canada of these marketing agencies and the people who belong to them?

**Senator Murray:** We did not mention to them that the Liberal opposition has given up.

**Senator Olson:** Oh, boy. I should read the debates to them some day, or tell them where the debates can be found as to what the Conservatives did when we, the Liberals—including me as Minister of Agriculture—were trying to bring in the enabling legislation.

**Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard:** You have been gone a long time now.

**Senator Olson:** The Tories were so adamantly opposed to that legislation that the committee stayed up all night for three nights to try and get it passed. That is why I mention that.

Part of the minister's answer was that for the first time they had managed to convey that there was a consensus in Canada to modify and keep—

**Senator Murray:** No. For the first time we got an unambiguous declaration from the European community and from Germany with regard to Article XI.

The fact of the matter is that the European Economic Commission does not support the Dunkel proposal with regard to Article XI.

**Senator Olson:** That is good. I give the government full credit for that, but you should be ashamed that you had not achieved that long ago. Why did you not convey that a long time ago?

**Senator Murray:** They are conveying it to us.

**Senator Olson:** These negotiations have been going on now for five years and we are finally getting to the point where you are conveying an unambiguous view to them.

[Senator Murray.]

**Senator Murray:** No. They are conveying an unambiguous view to us.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** They finally listened to you. It took a long time, though.

**Senator Olson:** We will have a debate on this tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. I have a notice under "Inquiries", where we want to discuss this. I hope the minister will come and give us some further details because what he has done so far today—and I agree that Question Period is not a place to have a debate—is he has given us some abstract, superfluous comments on the matter. I hope that he will come tomorrow and give us some detail on what has happened, because a lot of people in Canada are vitally concerned about whether or not the government will support them.

I asked the government the other day if they intended to stick to their guns. It is not the Liberals who are backing away. As long as the government sticks to the position that they claim they will stick to—and, as the Prime Minister said, "We will fight day and night to do this"—that is fine.

**Senator Simard:** That is right.

**Senator Olson:** But I hope that it is not just a facade that they are putting on. Tomorrow, or even today, would be a good time to give us some assurance on that.

## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

### EFFECT OF BUDGET ON CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION— GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein:** Honourable senators, in the budget the government has broken its promise in the last election to the Canadian electorate and breached its reputed pledges and commitment to its closest allies by withdrawing the small, almost vital contingent of combat forces in continental Europe. Does the government recognize that its actions could unravel and hasten the demise of NATO? If so, is that the government position?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** No, honourable senators. First, I suggest my honourable friend should allow our NATO allies to speak for themselves, pending which I would not be inclined to take his views as being representative of theirs.

Secondly, we are not leaving NATO. We will retain a couple of squadrons of CF-18s and a brigade group here in Canada for the purpose of taking part in any emergency in Europe. And, as the honourable senator is well aware, we continue to be available preeminently among the nations of the world for peace-keeping assignments. Indeed, as the honourable senator will be aware from recent reports, while we may be leaving Germany, we seem to be going into Yugoslavia in some force.

**Senator Grafstein:** For the government's information—if it has not been made available—I have had the opportunity to read in the reports today the reaction from various of our allies, including NATO. Let me just give you some reaction.