

Oral Questions

We started that process, and the opposition has condemned us for it. It has condemned us for dealing with Article 11 in order to strengthen and clarify it. It accused us in that process of undermining Article 11, when, in fact, we are trying to clarify and strengthen it.

We have taken a very clear position in consultation with the dairy industry and with the provinces to fight this particular interpretation. We are soliciting the support of other council member countries, and as the hon. member knows, the meeting where this issue will be considered by the GATT council has been delayed pending further study and implication of this very important issue. My sense is that we are getting support from other council members. I would hope that we have the support of the hon. member.

As I said in the House yesterday, this government stands firmly committed to the principles of supply management and Article 11 is one of the keystones of maintaining supply management. We stand in full support of it in the GATT and we stood in full support of it in the free trade agreement.

• (1150)

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, what I asked the minister was whether the government would refuse to accept this decision by the GATT panel and refuse to implement it. I wish the minister would respond simply to that question. We ask that specifically because the former Minister of Agriculture went around the country telling Canadian farmers that by simply transferring yoghurt and ice cream from the tariff list to the import control list he would protect the underpinnings of supply management. We know that to be a fraud.

Would the minister simply answer these two questions? Will he refuse to implement this and will he oppose it? And will he admit that the former Minister of Agriculture and the government, last year during the free trade debate, actually deliberately misled the Canadian people and Canadian dairy farmers?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think we will strike out the last part of that statement.

Mr. Mazankowski: I find it strange, Mr. Speaker, that when there is a GATT decision that is unfavourable to Canada these guys run for cover when most of the time they believe that you can get your protection from

GATT. This is a GATT decision. This is a GATT panel decision and the hon. member should recognize that. We have several options available. I am not going to disclose our strategy on the floor of the House because it would impair our position in defending the best interests of Canada when this deal is dealt with before the GATT council.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, we have had quite a week as far as Canada's international reputation is concerned as it relates to South Africa. We have seen the Prime Minister boasting of Canada's leading role in fighting apartheid. The rescheduling of the South African debt makes a hollow mockery of that. The Canadian NGO community in Canada told the government what was going to happen. We have no leverage in regard to financial sanctions.

My question is to the Deputy Prime Minister. Who is determining Canadian foreign policy; the bankers in the boardrooms or the Canadian government?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I think this Government has shown that its anti-apartheid policy is very clear-cut and very effective.

As stated by the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the Commonwealth Conference, we will continue to exert the pressure on South Africa through our current sanctions, to ensure that the present government will ultimately have to change its position.

As for financial sanctions, as I explained earlier the package was negotiated by 14 banks which imposed conditions that were much stricter than before, and we will continue to initiate measures with a view to dismantling apartheid.

[*English*]

Ms. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, the minister, in an answer to the previous question on this matter, admitted that South Africa now has a breathing space. What I want to know is, will the government wipe the egg off its face and immediately impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against South Africa?