

Supply

With those points of correction I think that the hon. member should adjust the tenor of his comments so that you, Sir, might more seriously consider his comments.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this point of order at all, but I think it is important to make one comment.

If I am not mistaken I heard my hon. friend say that 48 hours' notice should be given on what is to be designated as an opposition day. Our point is that in fact the problem we have is if there is no notice on the floor of the House of Commons that such and such a day will be an opposition day, then we find it very difficult to understand how there could possibly be a number of motions placed on the Order Paper for a day that has not yet been designated.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I just can't believe my ears. We are trying to make a point. It is very simple. There were three days left in October, that is working days for this House. Two of those had to be opposition days. We therefore thought, because the government will not tell us what was going on, that we would use the rules thoroughly, and we used them. Standing Order 81(12)(a) says:

Forty-eight hours' written notice shall be given of motions to concur in interim supply, main estimates, supplementary or final estimates, to restore or reinstate any item in the estimates.

That is exactly what we did. And when we saw the government still persisting in not wanting to tell us what the work of the next day would be, we put another motion on the books because we thought at that time they were going to play tricks on us.

Mr. Cooper: They shouldn't have thought it.

Mr. Gauthier: Yes, because you are a tricky, tricky government. You do have this in mind. You have a mentality that says "we must play tricks on the opposition". So to avoid you playing tricks we put forward two motions. Nothing in this book says we cannot put two, three or four motions. Mr. Speaker, you would have to choose which one of those motions is going to be taken up when the government makes up its mind as to whether tomorrow or the day after is an opposition day. That is the problem.

The Conservatives will not tell us what the agenda is yet they expect us to guess. Well, if they want to continue that kind of game, we will continue that kind of game also.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to thank all hon. members for their contributions. I know that the Chair will take note of the comments this afternoon and we will proceed to the Orders of the Day. When the House rose at one o'clock p.m., the hon. member for Algoma had been given the floor.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE POLICIES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):

That this House condemns the government for having jeopardized the future of Canadian agriculture by its ill-conceived trade policies, especially the Canada-U.S. trade deal,

- 1) which have failed to gain access to the U.S. market in spite of the promises of the Prime Minister in the 1988 General Election;
- 2) which have failed to counter U.S. protectionist actions (including those taken after the enactment of the trade deal) against Canadian agricultural products such as pork and other commodities vital to our economy;
- 3) which have failed, as evidenced by the recent GATT panel decision on ice cream and yoghurt, to ensure that Canada is able to maintain its marketing board and orderly marketing systems;
- 4) which have failed to have any effect on U.S. agricultural export subsidy programs, such as the export enhancement program, which are contrary to the claimed "spirit" of the trade deal while the Canadian government has, at the same time, been moving unilaterally to dismantle programs beneficial to Canada's farmers; and
- 5) which have failed to create confidence among farmers in the future of the food supply system in Canada and its ability to ensure long-term food security for consumers.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I was concerned as to whether the House was trying to talk out our opposition day without getting to the very important matter before us, that being our motion which describes the tremendous uncertainty and the fear of the situation that exists in many rural areas of Canada because of the actions of this government with regard to trade issues. Clearly I do not believe there has ever been a time when marketing boards, the legislation and the support programs for marketing boards have been in greater jeopardy.