

TRADE

SALE OF U.S. SUBSIDIZED BARLEY TO SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On May 23 he told me that he would raise the matter of the U.S. grain bonus program with Secretary Shultz at a meeting in Halifax last weekend and the question of the U.S. withdrawing its subsidy on 500,000 tonnes of barley sold to Saudi Arabia, a traditional Canadian market. Did the Minister get agreement from the U.S. Secretary of State to withdraw the U.S. subsidy on this sale of grain?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I raised that matter, as did the Prime Minister in Tokyo, and as this Government has been raising the question of the impact of the U.S. Farm Bill on Canadian producers with regularity. We both raised it specifically and I indicated to Secretary Shultz that I would want to have a specific response. We raised it in terms of the need for countries like Canada to begin to take action which will allow us to break the cycle of subsidy which is causing so much damage in the Canadian agricultural industry. My colleague, the Minister of State for the Wheat Board, will be meeting with grain producers from other countries this week in Vancouver to carry forward this Canadian Government initiative to try to create better conditions for Canadian farmers.

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is not able to get the U.S. to stop raiding our traditional grain markets, how does he plan to get an agreement for a fair deal for Canadian farmers in the Canada-U.S. free trade discussions?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for raising the question because I think what is happening in agriculture indicates the very real degree to which Canadians with vital interests to protect are to some degree at the mercy now of international trading arrangements. We are threatened now by the practice of subsidies in the U.S. and the European Community which are making it very difficult for our producers to stay in business. We need some changes in those international arrangements. The Prime Minister worked on this at Tokyo. We are working now in trade negotiations with the world through GATT, and with the U.S. through discussions which began two or three weeks ago, to put a better system in place. The one thing that is clear is that the system in place now does not work to help Canadian farmers. We need one and are working towards one that will.

Business of the House

● (1500)

POINT OF ORDER

ALLEGED USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Speaker: I was going to make a ruling today but I gather the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) wishes to say something before I do.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity of reviewing your comments and comments of other Members on May 28 at pages 13722 and 13723 of *Hansard*, and I gather from the thrust of the comments that some Members appear to have drawn an implication that I was accusing another Member of deliberately misleading the House. I want to assure you, Sir, and all Members of the House that I meant no such thing. In order to clear the matter, hopefully once and for all, I will unequivocally withdraw any such implication.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Minister. I had intended to rule with regard to both matters, but I have been waiting until both Members were present. I thought they were both going to be present today. I will wait one more day and see if the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) is ready to hear the ruling. I think that is the only fair way to do it.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Two items, if I may, Mr. Speaker. First, I would advise the House that it is the intention of the Government to designate Tuesday, June 3 as an Opposition Day.

PROPOSED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): There have been discussions among the Parties, and I believe if you put the following draft order before the House you would find that there is unanimous consent.

That notwithstanding any Standing or Special Order of this House at 4.30 o'clock p.m. this day the House shall revert to Tabling of Documents for the purpose of permitting the Hon. Minister of Finance to lay upon the table and immediately thereafter shall proceed to Statements by Ministers for the purpose of receiving a statement by the aforementioned Minister. Provided that Standing Order 19(6)(a) shall be deemed to be in force for the purpose of this order.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to confirm that there were, in fact, the discussions that the Parliamentary Secretary indicates. I can hardly wait to see the Minister of Finance laying on the table.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I can confirm that there were consultations and the order in question will be accepted if it is moved.