Oral Questions

Canada's milk production. Therefore this issue is very important economically and also for national unity.

[*English*]

I want to ask the Prime Minister whether at this time he is going to take his gloves off, whether he is going to get tough with the American bullies at GATT, and whether he is going to tell them enough is enough. Is he going to say to them that Canada's marketing boards are here to stay? Will he do it?

● (1450)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Yes, and then I am going to declare war on them.

An hon. member: You are trivializing the issue.

Mr. Mulroney: Trivializing the issue? We are trying to deal with an extremely sensitive and difficult issue. My hon. friend says I am going to go down to the United States and say: "You are going to do this". We are dealing in a multilateral context in Geneva, not in the United States. The United States supports some of our positions. Japan supports some of our positions. Europe supports some of our positions. We are trying to bring together a coalition that brings together support for article XI and the position of Canadian farmers.

I would tell my hon. friend that unless he has some recent experience, the idea of arriving at the GATT with the United States or the Europeans or the Japanese with gunboat diplomacy in international commercial relations does not work. If we had 97 per cent of the world trade and the other partners 3 per cent, perhaps it would.

We are approaching this with firmness in the honourable traditions of Canadian diplomacy and we are defending this with every amount of vigour that we possibly can. I know my hon. friend will stand in the House, acknowledge that, and say: "Yes, we will support the initiatives of the Government of Canada because they are right; they are right for the farmers and they are right for Canada".

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[*Translation*]

RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Brome—Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

We already know that CN and CP Rail must dispose of certain abandoned rail lines. Several non–profit organizations wish to obtain them to make into bicycle paths for the enjoyment of thousands of cyclists.

Can the minister explain the federal government's position on the disposal of CN properties between Farnham and Granby? Also, can the minister intercede with the authorities of Canadian National so that the current moratorium on the sale of these properties can be extended for a few months?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for Brome—Missisquoi for this question, which gives me the opportunity to tell her that I am in complete agreement with the representations made by some 60 towns, I believe, to use the CN lands as bicycle paths in her beautiful riding. I think that is a wonderful use for them.

She can count on our constant support and rest assured that we will take all the time necessary to convince the few municipalities that have not yet embarked on this project, to make sure that they all have time to do so, because it is important that this project be implemented as smoothly as possible.

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[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

Across Canada deadly chemicals are being released every day from old damaged and abandoned air conditioners and refrigeration units. Community leaders are on the front line of trying to stop the destruction of the ozone layer and they have asked for the government's help.

Will the minister then, knowing the seriousness of the situation, act immediately? Will he do as the environment committee recommended and bring in programs with the provinces and the municipalities so this can stop immediately?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, let me update the member. We are doing that. In fact we have been ever since we put together the Montreal protocol in 1987. It is under this government that the protocol came together. We set a time frame in the protocol. We then went faster than the time frame