

Supply

I wonder if he would also agree with what the Prime Minister was telling his friends down on *The Wall Street Journal* just two or three months before that on April 3 when he said: "U.S. trade remedy law cannot apply to Canada period." He went on to say in the same interview: "You can't have a free trade arrangement and expect the traditional laws of countervail to apply."

How do you believe any of this stuff? It is just unbelievable. He said in his speech: "How would you do the ice cream and yoghurt deal in a right way under the free trade deal?" You know, one thing he might do is start to tell the truth. The Minister of Agriculture ran all over this country and said: "Boys, no worry about the supply management and marketing boards. We have put all those products that are going to lose their tariff over on the import control list. No problem". There is a big problem today and that precedent at the GATT threatens to completely destroy our whole supply management and marketing board system.

But I wonder in a more serious vein if the minister could just answer a couple of questions, just so that dairymen will know in this country. Is the government going to accept the GATT panel recommendation decision with regard to ice cream and yoghurt either at the November 7 meeting or the December 4 meeting?

Could the minister say how he is going to oppose the United States tariffication system for controlling imports? Essentially that system is exactly the system that we now have in ice cream and yoghurt which as the tariffs come down leaves it totally wide open. I wonder if the minister could comment on that.

Is Canada going to oppose that because we are in a free trade area, we are going off to the GATT, and we are going to remove all subsidies? I wonder whether he is getting any support for Canada's position at the Cairns Group. Supposedly we are members of the Cairns Group. Is he getting any support for Canada's position? I wonder if the minister could also comment on whether or not the government is planning to accept the proposed aggregate system of measurement for subsidy systems on farm commodities.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I think we have to forgive the hon. gentleman a certain measure of exaggeration when he makes the quotes that he is allegedly making there. He quotes my leader, the right hon. Prime Minister, and I want to quote one of his leaders.

The hon. Premier McKenna of New Brunswick said on June 21, 1989: "Because of the FTA we are starting to feel like we are on the move and that we have got an opportunity to share the wealth of Canada in an equal fashion."

This was stated by Premier McKenna six months after the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement went into effect. One of the few Liberals in this country one can listen to, pay any heed to, learn anything from, who speaks his mind and has a contribution to make; not a ghost like the present Leader of the Opposition, if they have a leader. One day he is in this Chamber and the other day we do not know where he is. He is not visiting international precincts, that is for sure. He is not giving much leadership.

Premier McKenna, who is a leader of a substantial number of people in the Liberal party, has said: "We are starting to feel like we are on the move, and we've got an opportunity to share the wealth of Canada in an equal fashion." That will explain what the value of the free trade agreement is. I do not need to go on to prove any more about it, but perhaps I should. Who would you like me to quote? Do you want a quote from a politician, a quote from a businessman, or a quote from a business statesman?

Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): How about answering the question?

Mr. Ferguson: Just answer the question.

Mr. Crosbie (St. John's West): You want me to answer the question. With respect to the GATT panel on ice cream and yoghurt, we will decide on that matter as matters proceed as to whether or not we should accept the GATT panel report with respect to ice cream and yoghurt.

I think we want to look at it in the same context as the United States has looked at certain GATT panel reports that have been made with reference to certain complaints with respect to U.S. policy. One of our options, presumably, is that this would be a matter that would be looked at in the context of the whole MTN negotiations during 1990.

Of course there is a considerable difference between accepting or not accepting the GATT panel report and the implementation of that report. Time will tell what our final position will be with respect to the GATT panel report on ice cream and yoghurt. It is a decision that, to some people, was not unexpected and we will have to deal with it in the context of the negotiation that is now going forward.