

An hon. Member: Who do you think you are kidding?

Mr. Lang: I say to him particularly that in this case an election gain is from having the stabilization plan which this government fought for, and got through, to the great benefit of Canadian farmers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You are something else.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE PROHIBITED FROM TRADING WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the government of Canada recently announced measures aimed at cutting back trade and support for the government of South Africa, and in view of the fact that the government's present campaign against the South African government has shown no appreciable effect so far, can the minister tell this House if his government is prepared to go further by stopping all interaction between any government agencies involved in commerce and trade with the government of South Africa?

● (1452)

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when I made the initial announcement with regard to various measures undertaken by the government, which I believe was in December last, I also mentioned—and I refer the hon. member to the statement—that there were a number of other matters being considered which fall generally within the definitions he has just outlined, such as the matter of credit, the matter of preference under the Commonwealth preference scheme, and a number of others. Work is continuing on them. I hope to be in a position shortly to indicate whether these measures will be taken, or not, on the basis of what the studies reveal.

If I can have just another moment, I should say that the question of Namibia is one which I have discussed with other western countries. Given the prospect, however slim at the moment, but still a prospect, that we can get a resolution of the basic problems this year, there is a feeling that perhaps we ought not to move in terms of any further sanctions relating to Namibia until the outcome of the present negotiations is known.

Mr. Rodriguez: In view of the fact the minister's announcement to this House and the country was some 3½ to four months ago, and the government has said that the major commercial transactions between Canada and South Africa are handled by the private sector, will the minister tell the House if his government is prepared to discourage support of the South African government by private Canadian compa-

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nies, by cancelling double-taxation agreements between Canada and South Africa and withdrawing any government money now held on deposit in any Canadian bank involved in loans to South Africa?

Mr. Jamieson: On the first of those queries, that is precisely the matter to which I was referring when I mentioned Namibia. The double-taxation relates to Canadian operations in that particular area. What has been concluded among the foreign ministers of the five western countries in the Security Council is that the principal objective at the moment, on which we worked in New York a month ago, is to achieve a peaceful transition to full power for the people of Namibia, in a peaceful context. That is the number one objective. What we must weigh is whether actions of the kinds which are now being proposed, and have been for some time, would be counterproductive to that effort. If it is determined both can move forward simultaneously, that is the way we will probably go.

Mr. Rodriguez: In view of the fact the matter of Namibia is of grave concern, and the departure from Namibia by South Africa is of concern to this House and the country, I put it to the minister that our concern about the regime in South Africa is based on the fact that the black man and the white man are not equal, and the fact that there is "bantustanization" in progress. Is the minister prepared to take those steps against the regime in South Africa which will indicate that we in Canada are seriously concerned about that philosophy on which its government is based?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation whatever in repeating what I have said on many occasions, that this government—and, I am sure, this parliament and this country—is unalterably opposed to apartheid. We have already taken certain measures. We are prepared and are examining the possibility of going further. It is strictly a question of how far we can go on our own without still greater support from the world community, and at what point such actions become counterproductive to the principal goal of getting apartheid eliminated as a basic principle and achieving freedom for Namibia. Those are just two of the issues involved.

Finally, I should reiterate the point that I would be delighted if this House would debate at some time whether we should go so far as to inhibit private enterprise, private individuals not seeking any support from the Government of Canada, in any dealings they wish to have with South Africa or any other country.

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POST OFFICE

MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS RESPECTING DELIVERY OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHEQUES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. The executives of the Post Office and the minister seem insensitive