

Oral Questions

Prime Minister discovered if we use the American proposal to the OECD for measuring agricultural subsidies, Canada is in fact in the big leagues with 46 per cent of Canadian farm income coming from subsidies as measured by the producers subsidy equivalent, which is the American measurement, versus 49 per cent for the Europeans.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): That is the OECD measurement.

Mr. Althouse: It is the American measurement as proposed to the OECD, Sir.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): And accepted by the OECD.

Mr. Althouse: Given the obvious embarrassment for that briefing lapse, does the Prime Minister intend to continue advocating the American approach and philosophy, that is, to eliminate all subsidies from agriculture? If so, how does he expect farmers to survive?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): They are against the OECD.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend for raising what is a very important question on behalf of Canadian farmers. I would draw to his attention a statement by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association further to my interventions on behalf of Canadian farmers in Europe. "The statistics being thrown around by EC officials are typical of the way the Europeans attempt to divert attention from their destructive and unfair export subsidy program", Morley Shepherdson said.

The Liberals, I know, take exception to the decision of this Government to protect and defend the interests of Canadian farmers and the family farm.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: They used to say: "Why should we sell their wheat?"

Mr. Mulroney: There was a shoot-out going on between the Europeans, initiated by the Europeans, responded to by the Americans. It is causing great damage to Canadian farmers. We resolve to do two things, first, to try to bring about an end to this destructive war and, second, to defend the interests of the Canadian farmer while this war is going on until such time as a cease and desist can be brought about, because the Canadian family farm and the Canadian farmer must survive during this period.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, since it is important that not only farmers and Canadians know the Government's position with respect to these international negotiations, and since it is also important that the other countries know our position, will the Prime Minister enlighten the House and clarify his position? We had thought he was with the Cairns Group, but during his discussions in Europe he sounded very much to be in the American camp, yet the Europeans see some of his actions as being closer to the

Japanese and European camps. What is our position? Can he state it clearly?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, let me tell my hon. friend that I am not in any way embarrassed, nor do I apologize for defending the interests of the Canadian farmer here or anywhere in the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: When a Canadian wheat farmer receives about \$2.92 a bushel, the European farmer receives \$7.13 a bushel. A Canadian farmer receives about \$1.10 for a bushel of barley. The European producer receives \$5.42. The Canadian farmer receives about \$7 a bushel for soybeans and in Europe it is three times that amount.

We began the process of putting agriculture on the agenda of the international summit. We have met regularly with Canadian farm leaders prior to these international meetings, and we have stated very specifically to the Americans and to the Europeans that their destructive subsidy war must end because Canadian farmers were getting blindsided and killed in the process, and we, Canada, Australia and the Cairns Group, were going to fight this because our farmers have made an enormous contribution to our national well-being and they must be kept whole while this war is being ended.

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NATIONAL PARKS

SOUTH MORESBY—SIGNING OF FINAL AGREEMENT

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I understand that tentative arrangements had been made for the federal Government and the provincial Government of British Columbia to sign an agreement today for the establishment of the South Moresby National Park Reserve. Can the Deputy Prime Minister advise the House of the reason the signing did not proceed, and when we might expect the finalization of this agreement, so that the \$106 million commitment of this Government for a national park and associated regional development activities can move forward?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, I am sure, there were very extensive discussions between the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia with respect to this issue, which culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of British Columbia. It was a very generous offer that was provided by the Government of Canada, some \$106 million for the national park and associated regional development activities, perhaps more