

Noting these revelations, NDP Member Derek Blackburn made several remarks in the Commons. On 30 March 1988, Mr Blackburn referred to Gen. Thériault's comments, stating:

Last year I took a lot of flak for suggesting that keeping a small band of Canadian troops in West Germany was a waste of money. In fact, I was called a neutralist, isolationist, soft on communism, radical....Now someone has had the courage to challenge so-called conventional thinking. This time that someone is a man who spent his entire life defending this country.¹⁰

On 19 April 1988, Mr. Blackburn referred to the Nielsen story. Defending NDP policy on NATO, he commented:

...I will debate any conservative cold warrior on his or her bleak policy to fuel the...arms race, but I cannot stomach duplicity. When the Minister of Defence (Mr. Beatty) has the nerve to call our proposals costly, dishonest, and cowardly, I must draw the line. Didn't he read last week's newspapers? We found that it was Conservative Defence Minister Erik Nielsen who first proposed to pull Canada's troops out of Europe.¹¹

On 29 March 1988, in testimony before the Standing Committee on National Defence, Canada's present Chief of the Defence Staff, General Paul Manson, was asked by Conservative Member Stan Darling for his opinion of Gen. Thériault's remarks. General Manson replied:

I agree with General Thériault on a great many things but I must say I do not agree with him in his contention that Canada should have retained its commitment to the north flank. My reasons... are reflected very closely in the way the White Paper is worded on

¹⁰ Commons Debates, 30 March 1988, p.14272.

¹¹ Commons Debates, 19 April 1988, p. 14610.