

*Oral Questions*

are concerned, I can inform him that I have had consultations with the President of the Treasury Board, and I can assure him that there are quite a few patent applications that must be examined before any employees can be laid off, and we must proceed with these applications before any final steps are taken.

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**TEXTILES AND CLOTHING**

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

After carefully reading through the Budget, I was unable to find any measures dealing with the textile and garment industry. Could the Minister inform the House what kind of policies he intends to introduce in this respect or could he give some indication of the progress that has been made in deciding on policies for this particular sector?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Budget gives a good deal of encouragement to the small business community, which involves many companies in the textile industry. The involvement there will give the industry access to more capital and a good deal of encouragement in expanding its activities.

In consultation with the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion as well as with the Minister for International Trade, we have been discussing at length the directions in which we feel the textile industry should proceed. Announcements will be made with respect to those directions in due course.

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**NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE COMMAND**

## REPORTED REORGANIZATION

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the Minister confirm the reports we have received from the usual sources—those being the Pentagon and *The New York Times*—which state that the United States has finalized its plans to establish an integrated command centre at Colorado Springs which will include ballistic missile defences, that is, the SDI, as well as offensive nuclear forces? Can the Minister confirm this decision? Will he not agree that, unless we oppose it, Canada will be inexorably drawn into star wars through NORAD?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I will confirm no such thing. I read the article to which the Hon. Member refers in *The*

*Globe and Mail* this morning. That article purports to reproduce an article from *The New York Times*. Mr. Halloran, who, I believe, is the reporter who wrote the article, garbled totally fictitious events with some actual developments, which creates the very false impression of relevance to star wars, SDI, or whatever. However, in the process it is very misleading and gravely misquotes the facts, which I do not find unusual.

## STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, it is clear the Minister has, once again, not been speaking to his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs who, on March 12, 1985, in answer to a question from my colleague, the Hon. Member for Brant, said that arrangements have been in place for some long time for the development of the merging of missile air and space systems under NORAD. That is what the Secretary of State for External Affairs has stated. That is what the United States stated when the Minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

**Ms. Jewett:** When will the Minister state what his colleague has already stated, namely, that there is to be a combined, integrated centre at Colorado Springs which will include ballistic missile defences?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague has said no such thing.

**Ms. Jewett:** Read Joe.

**Mr. Nielsen:** If there is any influence among the bedfellows over there, then I would urge the Leader of the New Democratic Party to intervene personally with the Leader of the Liberal Party—

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is what he is doing!

**Mr. Nielsen:** Perhaps, then, we can break this log-jam. We have been trying to get the subject of NORAD before the standing committee since April 3, but it is they who have been preventing it. Let us have some agreement to get the subject before committee.

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[Translation]

**THE BUDGET**

## JOB CREATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, last Monday, I was able to point out that in absolute dollars,