

2. Strategic Defense Initiative

On the question of Canadian participation in SDI research, the Conservative majority has refused to say yes or no. It has thrown the matter back in the Government's lap. And it has done so on the truly incredible grounds that it had inadequate information "related to the strategic, financial, and economic implications" on which to make a judgment.

In fact the Committee was inundated at all of its hearings with detailed information on the strategic, arms control, technological, economic and moral aspects of Star Wars. What more did the Conservative majority need?

The scorn with which the Conservatives have treated the hearings is further evidenced by the almost total absence in their report of references to the witnesses and what they said on SDI. It's as if Canadians had never spoken or written to us at all, as if the hearings had never taken place.

Witnesses will be absolutely staggered to learn that the Conservative majority's main thrust in their recommendations is that Canada should be more involved in the militarization and even the weaponization of space. How many witnesses wanted this? Did even the aerospace industry ask for a Strategic Space Program?