

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Broadbent:** Oh, come on! Where is the Prime Minister today?

**Mr. Deans:** Where is the Secretary of State?

**Mr. Nielsen:** She will forgive me if I view with some skepticism the question she puts. But I would encourage her and her Party to participate in the parliamentary work of that special committee, and to put her views where they belong, in the parliamentary committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Ms. Jewett:** The Deputy Prime Minister is being as insulting today as he can possibly be. That is a great deal. I have told him many times that I was ill for that one single session.

**An Hon. Member:** How many times?

**Ms. Jewett:** I have told him many times with respect to that 64-minute session that he was at the committee.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how long one can go on listening to insults from the Deputy Prime Minister. Does the Deputy Prime Minister care about listening to the various views of the Canadian public on star wars? The Government can still make its decision. We will still make our decision on it. I am not saying that the Government should have a referendum. I am asking does the Deputy Prime Minister care about listening to their views on star wars? External Affairs officials say there has not yet been time for the public—

● (1430)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Ms. Jewett:** —to express views—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Member has had quite a long time to ask the question. I now need the answer.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be aware of the fact that I appeared before that committee not once but twice. She was in attendance at one of the meetings but not at the other—

**Mr. Broadbent:** She was sick.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** What about consultation?

**Mr. Nunziata:** Sleaze bag.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —at the time it concluded work. I certainly did not mean to be insulting, if she took my remarks as being insulting to her. I thought that in my normally abrasive

fashion I was being kind in responding to her question. The Hon. Member should see me when I am really insulting.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** With respect to the specific question she put, the Green Paper on foreign policy is broad enough to entertain the kind of discussion that the Hon. Member would like to have, and that others would like to have, as they say they would like to have—

**Mr. Broadbent:** A real winner.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —and if the Hon. Member and her Party would participate as members in the work of the special committee that has been set up to discuss that Green Paper for precisely the reasons that—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have to be fair.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Good.

## WORK OF COMMITTEE

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Why bother having a special committee spending a year discussing the matter upon which the Government has already made a decision? Why bother? Why put that enormous expense on the backs of the taxpayers when the Government has decided on its defence policy, or will by fall in its White Paper; when it has decided on its trade policy or will by fall, according to the Quebec City summit; when it has decided, or is about to decide, on star wars? Will the Minister tell me why bother?

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

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

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member would not like to leave the wrong impression with the House, as is the wont of so many members of the Official Opposition in questions of this nature, that there have been decisions taken on SDI, or that there have been decisions taken on trade, or that there have been decisions taken with respect to defence policy. Those decisions have not in fact been taken. Again I would encourage the Hon. Member to approach her task, as a Member of Parliament with specific responsibilities in the area of foreign policy, in a positive way and participate in the parliamentary process by participating in the work of that special committee.

**Ms. Jewett:** It is a charade.