

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we have now had both opposition Parties move off their opposition to public debate.

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

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** The place, Mr. Speaker—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Wednesday is taking a long time to go by.

**Some Hon. Members:** It's Thursday.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what I am saying; Wednesday is taking a long time to go by. Go ahead, please.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, the appropriate place for a discussion among House Leaders is in a meeting among House Leaders. We would be prepared to have that discussion occur immediately.

From my own point of view as the sponsor of the paper, while I do not want to give instructions to the committee, certainly I would have no objection at all to the committee giving priority to questions on which the Government has to make decisions quickly, so that we will have the benefit of the advice of the people and Parliament of Canada before we have to take those decisions. I would have no objection to that.

Naturally I do not want to limit the Government of Canada by artificial deadlines coming from the Hon. Member, as I did not want to accept the artificial deadline of Mr. Weinberger. But if, for example, we are to make a decision on this limited phase of the question of a response to an invitation on the Strategic Defence Initiative sometime within the next three to four months, I would think that if the committee could get going quickly we would have some expression of consensus to help guide us. I think that is reasonable, and I hope that Hon. Members do, as well.

## REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I want to be absolutely clear and understand what it is the Secretary of State is saying. When the Government House Leader discussed this with me—and he shouted across the floor of the House that this was not my position yesterday—my position yesterday, as he well knows, is that I would consider whether or not it was possible to work out some arrangement. That is what I said.

**Mr. Crosbie:** You were stimulated yesterday?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** And now I want to carry through on that.

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you. Now I am asking if the Secretary of State is prepared to establish a committee with the primary purpose of reviewing the question of star wars, to report back not later than the day on which the House returns in Septem-

ber, and will the Government hold back any decision until that report is made to the House of Commons?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the world is wider than the Strategic Defence Initiative. There are questions of international development which have to be considered; there are questions of human rights which have to be considered; there are questions of the environment which have to be considered.

What we have done here is establish the means by which, for the first time, the people of Canada can take part directly in the discussion of Canadian foreign policy. I have just indicated to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain that I, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, would have no objection to the committee giving priority to questions on which the Government has to come to a decision in the next three to four months. That allows us to decide, that allows the public to participate, and I want to know why the opposition Parties are opposed to government decision and public participation.

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

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## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

## CYPRUS ANVIL MINE AT FARO, YUKON

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister, and it concerns the fate of the Cyprus Anvil Mine at Faro, Yukon, and the future of the town itself. As the Deputy Prime Minister knows, the previous Government took imaginative steps to keep that mine open.

**Mr. Crosbie:** What were they?

**Mr. Penner:** So far all we have had from this Government is one more study and not even a report. I am advised that there are meetings going on today to offer the employees a one-way ticket out of Faro; the Cyprus Anvil Mine is going to be mothballed.

Is the Minister fully satisfied that everything possible has been done by his Government to keep this mine open and operating, and to keep this town alive and keep the citizens living there, or will he now admit to the House of Commons that the town and the mine were written off by his government quite some time ago?

**Mr. Forrestall:** By the Liberal Government.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, that question is more properly directed to the Minister responsible, that being the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. But I can remind him that the mine was closed while the Party to which he belongs was in government, not by this Party. I will remind him as well of the efforts