

Oral Questions

the three cases she referred to, the answer is altogether different.

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF DUTIES OF MINISTER OF
STATE (YOUTH)

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, if in that case, there are no programs left under the Minister of State (Youth), I would like to ask the Prime Minister what the responsibilities of the Minister of State (Youth) are now.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yes, but wait! There is nothing to be lost by waiting. The fact is that our prime responsibility is not to build up a new bureaucracy. Our first obligation towards youth is to keep creating permanent job and this is exactly what we are doing. But have no fear concerning youth. This will be linked in due time not only with other programs, but with very important initiatives that will create more jobs for our young people.

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[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING—STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. U.S. Ambassador Niles said last week, referring to the Cruise:

There was no danger in the tests to anybody. Sometimes they don't work, that's why you test them.

Does the Minister support the impropriety of an American official announcing a resumption of testing over Canadian territory before we have even had a report on why the last missile crashed?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen all the report. I do not know what Ambassador Niles said.

As I indicated in an answer to the Hon. Member's Leader, the Canadian Government has to be satisfied as to the reasons for that crash. Once it is satisfied, the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by the previous Government will be honoured.

REQUEST THAT MISSILE BE TESTED OVER UNITED STATES
TERRITORY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the cause of the second crash appears to be mechanical, pretty fundamentally mechanical, would the Associate Minister of National Defence tell the Americans, that from here on in, they should go back to the drawing board and then test or retest their Cruise missile over their own territory until at least they get the mechanical bugs out of it?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member seems to have some information that is not available to me or to the Department of National Defence—

An Hon. Member: It would not be the first time.

Mr. Deans: That is nothing unusual.

Mr. Andre:—in that he seems to know what the reasons for the crash are.

Mr. Broadbent: We assume it was not God's will.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: The path for the test was chosen very carefully. There are all kinds of safety mechanisms to ensure Canadians and Canadian property are not damaged and are safeguarded. Those precautions remain in effect. I do not think there is any reason for the Hon. Member to try to scare Canadians in this regard.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

INQUIRY IF MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CORPORATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada this coming Thursday will be legally in a position to strike. The Minister of Labour has refused to appoint a mediator; this past week-end, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stated in Western Canada that postal employees would go on strike at their own risk, because they were being threatened with privatization. Could the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tell me whether he is still responsible for Canada Post?

[English]

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that he is a little behind. A mediator, in the person of Mr. Bill Kelly, has been assigned to assist the two parties. Mr. Kelly was assigned at the joint request of Canada Post and the Letter Carriers Union.

[Translation]

POSTMEN—ALLEGED PRIVATIZATION THREAT—MINISTER'S
POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): This past week-end, Mr. Speaker, was the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans threatening postal employees with privatization? Was he speaking on behalf of the government?