

Oral Questions

If not—and the evidence shows that it does not create more jobs—why is the Government pursuing star wars as a great job creator? Why is it following this totally fallacious and morally corrupt line?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, to summarize what has been said on thousands—on several occasions in the House of Commons—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): That's better.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): It seems like thousands. We accept the view that when the Soviet Union is involved in research relating to what could broadly be called its "strategic defence initiative", it is prudent for our side, for the NATO alliance, to be involved in research of that kind.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): So much for escalation.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): That is point number one. Second, as we have indicated before in the House of Commons, the interpretation of the ABM Treaty is an interpretation which allows research. That is all that Canada has approved. Third, as the Hon. Member will know, we have now received an invitation to consider taking part in that research. That is consistent with the ABM Treaty. Any research in which Canada might be involved also means jobs for Canadians. We would not turn it aside because it meant jobs for Canadians.

U.S.S.R. POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs not agree that the Soviets do not want to get engaged in a race in space?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Shields: Take off the red glasses.

Ms. Jewett: Hon. Members simply do not know the facts.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Jewett: It has had a moratorium—and the Minister knows this—on the development of ASAP weapons. It has had a moratorium on the development of ASAPs. The United States has not. It wants space weapons on the agenda—

Mr. Speaker: With great respect, does the Hon. Member have a question?

Ms. Jewett: If they would settle down.

I am asking the Minister if he will not, in his talks in the Soviet Union with Mr. Gromyko, pursue this question—which his colleagues doubt—about the Soviet desires in relation to outer space, and bring back that knowledge and information to his colleagues and to this House?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course I will pursue that question in

my meetings with Mr. Gromyko, and I will bring back what I learn to the Hon. Member and to other Hon. Members in the House.

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● (1430)

ENERGY

AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN PROVINCES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy and concerns the recently signed oil pricing agreement with the western provinces. In view of the fact that this document has far reaching effects on the people of the Province of Ontario, and in view of the Government's professed commitment to consultation with the provinces, will the Minister tell this House why the leader of the largest oil-consuming province in the country, the Premier of Ontario, was not consulted on the details of this agreement, as he has stated himself?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that I will be making a statement, after Question Period, on the western accord.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

THE BUDGET—COST OF GASOLINE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Finance. Could the Minister give Canadian consumers, especially those in Ontario, the assurance that they will be spared an increase of as much as 23 cents a gallon in the price of gas, in the Budget that, by sheer coincidence, is to be tabled a few days after the provincial election in Ontario? Can the Minister give us that assurance?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Minister of Energy will be addressing most of these questions in her statement after Question Period, and I think it will be quite clear to the Member opposite that the effect of this energy agreement will not be an increase for the consumer.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

NECESSITY FOR AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minis-