

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Since the Minister has reiterated in the answer he gave me one minute ago, and in answers he has given to the Liberal Party as well, that the Government intends to go ahead and make a decision about star wars, and intends to make a decision about trade matters, before the consultative process is over, will he acknowledge that this is a sham process, that it is going to cost the Canadian people thousands of dollars, probably on a weekly basis, and that it makes a whole mockery out of democratic consultation? If the Minister acknowledges that, will he put an end to this sham process?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I remind the Leader of the New Democratic Party that he asked me if a decision would await a final report of the committee. The answer is that a decision obviously cannot await that final report—

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

• (1430)

**Mr. Broadbent:** Why not?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** I made it clear earlier that I was not going to accept the deadlines imposed by the Secretary of Defense of the United States. Nor do I think we should accept other artificial deadlines. What we should seek is a means by which, before we decide, we have the maximum possible opportunity to hear from the people of our country. We have provided a process which would allow the public of Canada to speak on this issue, beginning in the next few weeks. The Liberals and the NDP are refusing to give the people of Canada that voice on that decision.

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

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** I know the NDP do not like making decisions; they have taken eight years to figure out their decision on NATO. But the Government of Canada—

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

## MINISTER'S VIEWS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Right Hon. Minister that one year ago he was conducting his own consultation with Canadians. He prepared his own paper on foreign policy. But he never had the courtesy to use the wisdom of the people who made the presentations to him which he put in the paper, which was then put in the waste-basket by his Leader last summer.

Will the right hon. honest friend of mine come clean at the beginning of the discussion and table the paper he prepared last summer, so we will know the real thinking of the real Joe?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I admire the Hon. Member's agility in trying to change the subject and get off a position of denying public

## Oral Questions

debate, which he knows is an insupportable position. What is at issue here is not my views, indeed not the views of the Hon. Member, because our views are known. What is at issue is whether or not the people of Canada are going to be allowed to be heard on the Strategic Defence Initiative. I want to hear from Canadians on the Strategic Defence Initiative. The Liberal Party will not let Canadians speak on the Strategic Defence Initiative.

## REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a little proposition to the Right Hon. Minister. Will he agree to let the committee sit right now, have public hearings on star wars, and give a mandate to the committee to report three months from now?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I read very closely the report of the debate yesterday in *Hansard* and I saw that at 2.30 yesterday afternoon the spokesman of the Liberal Party on external affairs was in favour of the committee; at 2.50 in the afternoon his Leader was opposed to the committee.

**Mr. Chrétien:** If we discuss star wars right away.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Do I now understand that the Liberal Party's official position is that they are prepared to let there be public debate and that they will give—

**Mr. Chrétien:** On star wars right away.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):**—agreement to a reference of the Green Paper to a special joint committee? Is that the position of the Liberal Party now?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Right away on star wars.

**Some Hon. Members:** Get up!

**Mr. Siddon:** Get your act together.

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

## U.S. STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—COMMITTEE REFERRAL

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State as well, a question not at all unlike that just asked.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Are you still stimulated, Ian?

**Mr. Deans:** Will the Minister take out of his report the question of star wars, refer it now to an all-Party committee, with the reporting date to be that date on which Parliament returns in September? If he will do that, we will participate.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** You never said that on House Leaders' day.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The great participator.