

*Oral Questions*

make is that there is no suggestion in what Mr. Baker said that he is looking for us to try to control in any hands-on way the trade flows between Canada and the United States.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I hope the Minister bears that in mind when he meets Mr. Baker in Bonn.

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**SPACE WEAPONRY**

## UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my third question to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is reported to have said that Canada will not be asking the United States for any further information at Bonn on the star wars research program. Would the Deputy Prime Minister consult with the Prime Minister to ask him why we would not use—I see I am not going to get an answer from the Deputy Prime Minister in any event. However, why would he not use this occasion to seek a clarification from the American Government on what participation it seeks from Canada in the \$26-billion research program known as the Strategic Defence Initiative?

● (1120)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this seems to be the day for the Leader of the Opposition to go fishing. The answer today, as it was yesterday, is that we see no reason at all to duplicate the work of a public servant. When we give someone a job to do, we let that person do it. When the information returns to Cabinet, Cabinet will make the policy decisions and communicate them to the House of Commons.

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[Translation]

**TRADE**

## IMPACT OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for International Trade, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday, Canada's Minister for International Trade and the Ontario Industry Minister both admitted that studies had yet to be made or completed with respect to the potential impact on Canadian industry of a free trade agreement with the United States. My question is as follows: Could the Minister of Finance explain to the House why the Minister for International Trade and the Government support the idea of signing a free trade agreement with the United States without first obtaining a study of the impact on industry and the jobs that might be affected, and also the impact on our exports,

such as pork, sugar and possibly lumber and public transit equipment? Why is this kind of agreement being suggested without a study being made?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer the question of the Hon. Member. He uses the term "free trade". I want to assure him that there has not been any suggestion of signing any agreement or working out an agreement for free trade such as he is suggesting. We have, of course, indicated that we would like to work toward securing and enhancing our trading relationship with the United States.

[Translation]

## EUROPEAN STANCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion read what the Minister of International Trade said yesterday in Toronto.

I would like to get back to the Minister of Finance on trade with the United States. One of the major causes of our trade surplus is, of course, the strong American dollar. Since the Minister is going to Bonn with the Prime Minister, could he inform the House whether the Canadian Government intends to support the European position that only a drop in interest rates in the United States will restore some measure of balance to the monetary situation and thus remove the pressure on trade surpluses as well as the pressure being brought to bear by a number of American industries to have their Government impose barriers that would restrict international trade with the United States?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think it would be favourable to the Canadian economy, and to all economies, if interest rates were to come down. One thing which has resulted in some distortions in trade flows as they affect Canada has been the strength of the U.S. dollar. We would welcome some decline in the level of the U.S. dollar, as the Secretary of the Treasury himself said yesterday. I do not see any inconsistencies in the positions taken by the European countries and the position taken by Canada.

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**ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD**

## BOARD NOMINEE—OATH OF SECRECY

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Perhaps he could inform the House how it was possible for the Government to decide late last week that Dr. Ursula Franklin's appointment to the Atomic Energy Control Board should not