

wondering whether it will go out of business. Will the Minister confirm whether he, the Minister of Energy, or departmental officials have had discussions with Dome Petroleum? Is it his opinion that Dome will go out of business?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is trying to excite some imagination, which is not very responsible of him. Yes, we have been in continuing discussions with the company and other parties interested in the matter. We will continue to be in touch with them. I am pleased with the progress of the discussions, and I do not think the expectations of the Hon. Member will come to pass.

#### INVOLVEMENT OF CHARTERED BANKS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of Finance is aware that if Dome Petroleum goes under, interest rates could go up. Would he ensure that the banks do not pass on their losses in terms of higher interest rates to ordinary Canadians?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that is a totally hypothetical question. Surely the Hon. Member understood my response to his first question.

**Mr. Speaker:** One question, the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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[Translation]

#### TRADE

##### REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AND FRANCOPHONES ON FREE TRADE NEGOTIATING TEAM

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, since ambassador Reisman, Canada's negotiator, believes that it is enough to have drivers and secretaries representing Francophones and women in the free trade negotiations, can the Acting Prime Minister tell us what he has done to keep the promise of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to add Francophones and women to the negotiating team so that they will really be in a position to have a say in the free trade negotiations?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, this question has been put before, and the lead Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, answered it on March 21. He is recorded at page 13473 of *Hansard* saying:

● (1500)

—we agree that the Canadian team should more accurately reflect Canadian society.

Steps are being taken to see that that is done.

#### *Business of the House*

**Some Hon. Members:** No answer.

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#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Member on the government side who is carrying out the duties of Government House Leader whether he has anything further to report to the statement given yesterday by the House Leader. This is Thursday, the day we usually ask the House business question. Does the Acting House Leader have anything further to add to the statement of yesterday?

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** No, Mr. Speaker. We intend to discuss this matter with the House Leaders. At this time I am not in a position to make any public declaration as to what we might be doing on Monday. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we will be doing so as soon as possible.

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#### POINT OF ORDER

##### CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I rise at the earliest opportunity to correct an impression that I may have left in my responses to the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). I believe I said the correspondence which was referred to by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) was referred to the board of Air Canada. I meant to say that it was referred to the management of Air Canada and not the board.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. The letter to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) was referred to the executive correspondence unit of the Department of Transport. I will be happy to give the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) the file number.

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**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It concerns House business and my question will be addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Given that the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary said he had nothing to announce today, it is a little difficult to allow further questions. The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) briefly.

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-67 was reported back to this House at the end of January. It has not come back on the