

## TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Prime Minister knows, he has commissioned a study into the whole health care system. Will he tell us how any findings as a result of this task force could be believed when it is being chaired by a Mr. Garry Chatfield, who is the president of Hospital Management and Development Ltd., a component of the Extencicare Corporation, who obviously has a vested interest in this plan?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, these study teams have been working over the past year on a whole range of programs, over a thousand of them government-wide. Other members of this particular private sector and public sector study team include Mr. Dennis Kealey of Health Services Directorate of Health and Welfare Canada; Dr. Bryce Taylor of Sports Administration Certificate Program from York University; the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Policy Development Division of the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care in Edmonton, Alberta; Mr. Hearn, the Deputy Minister of Health of Newfoundland, and I could go on. There is a good public sector/private sector mix there, a mode that we have been following throughout the program review process.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that when an individual from Extencicare is in a high position such as this, there is a definite conflict of interest. I want to say to the Deputy Prime Minister that over the last several years there have been numerous studies into Canada's health care system and each one has indicated that the health care system is fine. How many reports does the Government need before it finally finds one that supports its medieval view that the health care system should be privatized?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman will reflect on his own words for a moment, he will know that he is very unfair in levelling that accusation. This particular study team is involved in a study of government programs applying to health, education, and sports.

There have been other study teams that have also looked at programs having a relevancy not only to health but to every government Department. That is a management exercise. None of the recommendations that come back from that study team is government policy. They are the flow of opinions from a mixed private sector/public sector study team who are looking into the whole, broad range of programs in Government.

## Oral Questions

● (1125)

## FISHERIES

## FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT LOANS—GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, this question of the fishery improvement loans is not a new question to the Government of Canada. In July the then Minister of Fisheries wrote to a fishermen. He named the bank and said:

"The Bank . . . as a result of its heavy losses, has reached its full entitlement for reimbursement by the federal Government on fisheries improvement loans for the period in which your loan was registered and, therefore, we can no longer be responsible for your debt."

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Is it the policy of the Government to back in and give guarantees to people with lots of money in the bank, but to back away from a written guarantee given to a primary producer?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Fisheries):** Not at all, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman may not yet have noticed, but that kind of process was changed on September 4 last year.

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, in a letter from a fisherman to me, the fisherman wrote:

The bank manager advises me they too were unaware of any such limitation—

By the Government of Canada. He continued:

Maybe if you could contact the Minister of Fisheries as soon as possible something could be done right away.

I am contacting not the Minister of Fisheries but the Acting Minister of Fisheries. In his position as Deputy Prime Minister, when will we see a Minister of Fisheries so that I can respond to my constituents?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, as Acting Minister of Fisheries I have had no difficulty in dealing with problems that have been forwarded to me by Members of this House, and others. I am rather surprised that the Hon. Member has not performed his responsibilities and forwarded that particular problem to me. I now have notice of it and I will deal with it.

With respect to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, he knows, or should know, that that has to do with a Prime Ministerial prerogative. When announcements are to be made, they will be made known in due course.

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## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—CONGRESSIONAL PROTECTIONIST MEASURES

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External