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SSEA Scrum - May 17

## SSEA BOOK

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Q: How old is this decision on Star Wars Research, until you get a report of some sort from this Committee?

SSEA: - We're not going to tie ourselves to any artificial deadline. What I'm interested in doing is having the Committee sit and I'd like to know why the Liberals and the NDP refuse to let the public be heard. The sooner they get on with approval of the Committee, the sooner the conversations can begin. I've made it clear that no decision will be taken by us for 3 to 4 months and I'd like the Committee to be sitting before that time. The other parties won't let it.

Q: It's the same question. I'm just not quite clear. Are you willing to give them a commitment, to say to them - we will not make the decision until we hear from you?

SSEA: That has never been part of our position and I think it would be unreasonable for us to tie a Government decision to an artificial procedure. What I've said is that right now there is no opportunity for the public to be heard on the Strategic Defence Initiative. I have proposed an opportunity that would allow, let's say, 3 months' public hearings. The Liberals and the NDP are denying that proposal. The question to ask is why are they denying that proposal.

Q: Mr. Clark, what's the big hang-up about giving them a deadline?

SB: OK, that's it, guys. That's it. The scrum's all over now.

Q: About agreeing ...

SSEA: You understand the practices of Parliament.