

*Oral Questions*

Project, be put on the table to help find a quick solution to this major problem?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman, who I believe was absent yesterday, has not checked yesterday's *Hansard* where the Secretary of State for External Affairs covered that.

**An Hon. Member:** He was here yesterday.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I am sorry, he was here.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** He was not in Question Period.

**Mr. Nielsen:** He could not have been listening—

**Mr. Chrétien:** I was listening.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —because it was covered fully by the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday.

**Mr. Gauthier:** No, it wasn't; that is the reason for the question.

[Translation]

NEW PROPOSAL BY U.S.S.R.—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Deputy Prime Minister that I was here in the House and said that this was the weak point in the situation.

Is the Government planning to change its policy in view of the Gorbachev proposal as it did last spring, when, after beginning by supporting the Star Wars project, it then decided not to support this project following pressures by the Canadian public? Does the Government plan to show some sense like last year and put pressure on the Americans to eliminate the major obstacle to negotiations which would bring lasting peace?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as to the Strategic Defence Initiative of the United States, the Government position on that has been made clear repeatedly over the months. There is no Government-to-Government participation with that initiative. As to the general nature of the remainder of the hon. gentleman's question, that was covered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs who very clearly set out Government policy on the matter yesterday.

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#### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

##### COSTS OF MEDICARE AND EDUCATION

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. According to figures produced by Statistics Canada, the federal Government's contributions to medicare and post-secondary education costs have been rising more slowly than the actual costs of those

programs. With this in mind, will the Minister of Finance indicate whether he would be willing to let the present Established Programs Financing legislation run its full course to the end of March, 1987? Will he let it go its full course before he makes those cuts?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is dealing with apples and oranges here. There are many elements in provincial health care costs which the federal Government has never had any responsibility to finance or to participate in their financing. He is including those figures in the calculation which he just used in his preamble. As far as the substantive question is concerned, we have made our position quite clear on it. We will be introducing legislation shortly to deal with this matter, and its effect will take place on April 1, 1986.

#### CASH PAYMENTS TO PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister seems to have a problem understanding that costs are increasing in medicare and post-secondary education, but especially in medicare because people are getting older and our technology is more advanced. Will the Minister admit that, as a result of the course of action to which he is committed, the Province of Quebec will actually be receiving less money in cash from the federal Government at the end of this decade than it will be receiving from the federal Government next year? As a result of the program which he is introducing it will actually receive less cash from the federal Government.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member understands why that is. There is a formula under which provinces are recompensed in cash plus tax point transfers. Some years back the Province of Quebec opted to take more by way of tax point transfers. Therefore, when changes to the program occur, this only affects the cash element. That is the reason for the change.

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#### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

##### SOLICITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENTS

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last May 27 in the House, speaking about the Solicitor General of the day, the Prime Minister agreed with the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain when that Member said that it was not appropriate for a Solicitor General to comment on a matter which was before a tribunal for investigation. The Prime Minister said that he would discuss it with all members of his Government and "ask them to bear in mind the injunction of which his hon. friend speaks so well". Will the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister apply this fundamental principle to