

*Oral Questions*

● (1450)

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the position taken by the House Leader for the New Democratic Party because this is based upon draft legislation which is put forward by representatives of his own Party. All I can say to him is that in the present context I am sure the Public Service Staff Relations Board will not be oblivious of what has transpired over the past months.

The reality is that we have to put this into context. We have to move forward to allow these people to take their legal rights and to understand these legal rights. I urge the Hon. Member to assist in doing that by supporting quick passage of this legislation. It is for the good of the employees on the Hill, and for the good of the people of Canada that this institution have progressive labour legislation.

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[Translation]

**TEXTILE INDUSTRY****GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and concerns the closing of textile mills.

Last week's newspapers announced that one of the companies whose machinery I installed more than 25 years ago was on the auction block. Three months ago, Tricot Majestic of Saint-Hyacinthe closed its doors, as did the Wabasso Company in Trois-Rivières. The textile industry is falling off because of a failure on the part of the former Government to provide assistance. Can the Minister tell the House whether he will recommend short-term measures to get that industry back on an even keel?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member from Drummond I want to assure him that the textile industry has been meeting with us as an association, and as well we have met with representatives of the companies within that industry. We are currently working on a plan that we hope will be acceptable to the industry and to the Government, to ensure that some of these problems they have been living with be lessened, if not eliminated completely, in future.

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**THE BUDGET****PRESENTATION DATE INQUIRY**

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that it is May 1 and we still do not have a date for the Budget. My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. There is a rumour I

have heard to the effect that the difficulty of coming up with a date is the risk of conflict with a Stanley Cup play-off date, if you can believe that, which could occur on either the Tuesday or the Thursday. We have had enough skating on this issue.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** I see I have the approval of the House Leader. Will the Deputy Prime Minister do the Members of this House a courtesy, and others who have to travel and arrange their plans accordingly, and provide us with a date not later than the end of next week of when the Budget will be handed down?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the Hon. Member's prowess at hockey, he is not one of those about whom the late Foster Hewitt could say "He shoots, he scores!"

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nielsen:** He knows as well as I do that traditionally in this House the date of the Budget is announced by the Minister of Finance. The Minister said earlier this week that he will be announcing the date of that Budget in the House of Commons. As Hon. Members know, the Minister of Finance is in Bonn with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. No doubt if the Hon. Member puts his question on the return of the Minister of Finance, he will have the appropriate response.

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**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES****PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister is a pretty good skater as well. The Deputy Prime Minister has also been accused of slashing, if we can continue the analogy. He is the chairman of a committee of members of the private sector charged with producing cuts in programs, appropriately known as the Nielsen committee. Will the Deputy Prime Minister assure us that the full conclusions of that committee, not sanitized, but the full conclusions, which have been paid for by the Canadian taxpayer, will be tabled or made public here in the House, preferably at or prior to the budget date?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I take that as a compliment from the Hon. Member in the sense that he expects the task force on program review to produce a conclusion this month, which amounts to about eight months' time, a conclusion that it took Glassco three years to reach, to perform the work of examining well over a thousand programs. That is simply not possible. I should think the Hon. Member would be very encouraging about the approach we are taking to inject more management and order into the affairs of the country, a task which will take until toward the end of the year to complete in