

House whether she has already seen any signs of changes that will improve the quality of life of Canadians?

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question and welcome this opportunity to announce to Hon. Members that Inco, without waiting for the regulations to be introduced by the Province of Ontario, has already announced a 50 per cent reduction in its acid emissions, which is good news for all Canadians. I hope this announcement will persuade other companies, such as Noranda, to follow suit.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### PREPARATION OF ANOTHER PAPER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances, and I am referring to the publication of this working paper, I would have expected the Secretary of State for External Affairs to be in the House. In any event, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence.

I was hoping he would finally explain to the House the reason for publishing this insignificant document on foreign policy. The Green Paper on External Affairs is an embarrassment to Canadians and an insult to the intelligence of the people of this country.

My question to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence is as follows: When is the Government going to publish a really serious paper on issues relating to the nuclear arms race, external trade and human rights—a paper that can be taken seriously?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member now enjoys a position in this House of being the Leader of a political Party whose roots go to the very heart of our parliamentary traditions. One of those traditions is that Members who are elected and are paid to attend to the parliamentary process do participate in it. It ill behoves the members of the Right Hon. Member's Party not to participate in a special committee of the House of Commons which will answer that very kind of question, and explore that and many other areas of the Green Paper. It does not assist the system whatsoever, nor does it enhance the image or credibility of the Opposition, when the Opposition refuses to participate in the process and then seeks self-righteous justification here in the House of Commons.

#### REQUEST THAT GREEN PAPER BE WITHDRAWN

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the Deputy Prime Minister's failure today

### Oral Questions

to commit the Government to the delay of any decision on star wars or on the completion of negotiations with the United States on the international trade picture, will he withdraw this embarrassing document which does not read much better than a high school text book, and will he forget the committee hearings which the Government has turned into a farce?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman who just asked a question was once the member of a Government that produced White Papers while it was in office, and while those White Papers were before committee that Government made decisions recognizing the fact that the world does not stop while discussions are ongoing. The Right Hon. Member would not only be fulfilling his responsibility but would achieve a meaningful and constructive participation in the parliamentary process if he would urge his colleagues, and indeed instruct them, to participate in the work of that committee which will examine all of the questions, including the one he just asked.

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### CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

#### EQUALITY RIGHTS COMMITTEE ORDER

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence and concerns an attempt by his Ministry to muzzle effectively all members of the Canadian Armed Forces by denying each and every one of those members the right to make submissions to the Committee on Equality Rights, through an internal order that was issued the day the discussion paper was issued. I have a copy of that order here. In view of the fact that this committee is dealing with issues of basic concern to many rank and file members of the Forces, will the Minister immediately rescind this gag order and stop denying the men and women of the Armed Forces their rights to full equality before the law?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no knowledge whatsoever of any such order. I welcome participation in the discussion of equality rights at any time. It is my intention to appear before the subcommittee that is examining that question, if that is the subcommittee's wish. However, there was certainly no gag order issued by me. Indeed, I wonder just how effective it would be to gag 83,000 members of our Armed Forces and 33,000 civilian personnel through any such order. It has not been done by me.

#### REQUEST THAT MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister may not know about the order, but the order exists and members of the Armed Forces are bound by it. Will the Minister rescind that order? Furthermore, will the Minister agree to appear with his officials before the committee, by the end of next week at the very latest, instead of refusing to