

the Arms Control Centre and elsewhere cannot give me examples apart from the question of the SS-25. It is incumbent upon the Department and the Government to tell us what these violations are. I ask the Minister to do so now.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the arms limitation arrangements which now exist between the Soviet Union and the United States, it is not the United States, for instance, that has the world's only existing anti-ballistic missile defence system—

**Ms. Jewett:** That is the ABM treaty. I am talking about SALT II.

**Mr. Nielsen:** That system is in the Soviet Union.

**Ms. Jewett:** You don't even know that it is the ABM.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is not the United States that has the only ASATS system in the world. That is the Soviet Union. It is not the United States, or indeed any of the NATO allies, that continually breaches the production and use of chemical weapons. That is the Soviet Union, and just to mention a few.

**Ms. Jewett:** I am talking about SALT II.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM—ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Independence Program provides elderly and aging veterans with the opportunity to remain healthy and independent in their own homes at a fraction of the cost of institutional care. Will the Minister give consideration to enlarging the eligibility criteria in order that more veterans may qualify for this program?

**Hon. George Hees (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to advise the Hon. Member, who has always been very active on behalf of veterans generally, that we are now helping over 10,000 veterans remain in their own homes or communities where, as he and I know, they are far happier than in an institution. Since September, 1984, eligibility for the Veterans Independence Program has been expanded twice and a further expansion is planned for next January. I agree with the Hon. Member that a faster expansion is desirable. I assure him that I will take his question as a representation and give it very serious consideration. I thank him for this most constructive question.

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

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

### TRADE

#### PROTECTION OF CANADIAN JOBS—MEASURES GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last Friday, the Prime Minister, our expert on belabouring the obvious, took a strong stand against the U.S. President. He said he would retaliate. On Monday, he retreated and said: No, we are going to ask for compensation. Yesterday, we heard that the U.S. President gave his Canadian lackey the following answer: No compensation. Could the Minister of Finance tell the House today what the Conservative Government is going to do to save the jobs of Canadian men and women? What concrete measures are going to be taken? I mean real action, not bluff.

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's rhetoric suggests that we should have jumped right out of our seats last Friday and taken immediate retaliatory action. Shortly after that he heard his Leader say that maybe we should not use retaliation. We have said quite consistently that there will be a response from the Government that will be made in a measured way, that will be made after having an opportunity to respond to the concerns of the union and of management. It will be made after discussions with the United States, because if there is one thing that I believe is quite clear and on which many people have agreed it is that this should not be the start of a trade war with the United States. The long term objective is to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement with the United States and we must not lose sight of that.

[Translation]

#### RECOMMENDATION THAT GOVERNMENT ASSERT ITSELF IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Last week, it was the Prime Minister who said here in the House that he would make use of reprisals against the U.S. Government. He is the one who is belabouring the obvious! Could the Minister ask the Prime Minister to act responsibly and call the U.S. President, and ask him to intervene and withdraw these measures to protect Canadian jobs? Could he ask the Prime Minister to take concrete measures and take a firm stand on free trade, instead of caving in before the negotiations have hardly started?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member had been paying attention to Question Period this week he would have understood that we have met with the representatives of the industry, both management and labour, and have met with representatives of the U.S. administration. The Secretary of State for External Affairs will be meeting with Mr. Shultz this afternoon. These discussions are