

Another member, Lorne Nystrom asked whether the Government was

...in agreement with the Quebec Minister, Pierre MacDonald who says that the federal Government policy permits provincial Crown corporations to participate in Reagan's Star Wars program of the United States?<sup>7</sup>

Michel Côté, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion replied: "We want to let the companies decide for themselves whether they want to take part in this program or not...." Mr. Nystrom then pursued the issue suggesting that allowing Crown corporations to participate in SDI research was a violation of the Government's policy.<sup>8</sup>

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Mazankowski replied: "While Government initiatives were not to be condoned, private companies and institutions interested in participating in the program would be free to pursue such opportunities."<sup>9</sup>

In responding to the tabling of the Government's Response to the Special Joint Committee Report on International Relations, Liberal member Don Johnston outlined the Liberal view of SDI:

We believe the SDI Initiative is in breach of [the ABM] Treaty. The Minister may argue that under the letter of the law,...it is not in breach....This is not a job for Philadelphia lawyers. This is a job for statesmen. The SDI Initiative is blocking progress on disarmament, a declared objective of the Government....<sup>10</sup>

Liberal member Lloyd Axworthy called upon the Government to join in a joint resolution of parliament which would communicate support for the arms

<sup>7</sup> Commons Debates, 18 Nov. 1986, p. 1280.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Commons Debates, 4 Dec. 1986, p. 1766.