

Oral Questions

Defence and Communications, are asked to assist or invited to join in star wars work by the SDI office in Washington, they will decline and join the Prime Minister and say no?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I indicated on September 7 that the policy of the Government of Canada was that we did not feel participation on a Government to Government basis was in the interests of Canada or Canadians, and that it might inhibit the exercise at all times of an independent foreign policy, which is exactly the primary interest of the Government of Canada. That is why we said no on a Government to Government basis. I thought that was in the interests of Canada.

This is still a democracy, as the Deputy Prime Minister has pointed out—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: —well, relatively speaking.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: I thought the Deputy Prime Minister set out the other criteria fairly and well.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL INQUIRY

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Fairly well, my foot.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Jewett: The Deputy Prime Minister has suggested that the National Research Council getting involved in star wars research would not involve the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Prime Minister saying to the House that the National Research Council, the RCMP, the research centres in Defence and Communications are free to become involved with the SDI office in Washington? This is what we are confused about. Would the Prime Minister, not the Deputy Prime Minister, make it quite clear that they must not be involved, consistent with his policy on SDI?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): The Hon. Member is going to get the Deputy Prime Minister whether she wants to or not, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: So much for your foot.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: What she has said in her preamble is utterly false. I have said it before and I say it again that, as research

projects come up involving the continued co-operation that we enjoy with the United States in this field, and hopefully they will grow, we will determine whether or not to proceed on any individual project on the basis of Canadian priorities and Canadian objectives.

Ms. Jewett: You are saying yes to star wars.

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REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAPE BRETON

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands-Canso): Mr. Speaker, this week more than 150 employees of Cape Breton's heavy water plants were laid off. Tomorrow and over the weekend I will meet some of these people. My question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. What can I tell these people when they ask if there will be new employment opportunities in the region?

An Hon. Member: Nothing.

Mr. Riis: Rely on the market-place.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, I am sure he will be very pleased to learn that since we indicated our new Cape Breton initiatives we have had over 400 inquiries. To date we have made 90 offers aggregating several millions of dollars. If all the offers are put in place with new businesses established it will result in over 500 jobs being created in Cape Breton.

In addition to that, we have 51 major projects defined as projects under review that could produce employment for 100 people or will involve over \$2 million. Those projects would create thousands of jobs in Cape Breton. Cape Breton has never had such a job creating effort before.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

BANKS AND BANKING

REQUEST FOR DETAILS ON LOANS MADE BY AGENCY OF
CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK IN SANTA ANA

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance or the Minister of State for Finance.

According to information contained in public documents released by the California Banking Commission, the Santa Ana Canadian Commercial Bank branch had outstanding loans of \$396 million on its books as at December 31, 1984 and, on June 30, the loans totalled only \$165 million, a