

DISARMAMENT

ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister and relates to the meeting held in Reykjavik on the weekend. How does the Government intend to support the ABM Treaty now that President Reagan has made clear his intention to test and deploy ABM systems outside the laboratory within 10 years?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would not want to try to anticipate what may or may not happen in the next 10 years but our treaty is clear and the position of the Government of Canada with regard to ABM is clear. We have conveyed that to all Parties. There has been no change in our position.

POSITION OF UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, it is now clear from the weekend conference that the United States intends to violate the ABM Treaty. Exactly a year ago, Secretary of State Shultz stated at the North Atlantic Assembly meeting in San Francisco that the United States would adhere to a strict or restrictive interpretation of ABM. Would the Prime Minister not agree now that George Shultz lied to us a year ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if the Hon. Member would like to rephrase his question.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): I will put it in the way we would say it in our own Chamber. Would the Prime Minister not agree that the Secretary of State for the United States misled the North Atlantic Assembly so that we would pass a pro-SDI resolution at that very important meeting of parliamentarians of NATO countries?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that George Shultz needs me to defend his honour. It is well known and well accepted both here and around the world.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

FORGET COMMISSION'S FORTHCOMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It is one thing to correct abuses in the unemployment insurance program but it is another thing to gut a program completely which has served unemployed Canadians well for many, many years. Would the Prime Minister make a commitment today that he will implement no cuts recommended by the Forget Commission until the Standing Committee of the House has had an opportunity to examine fully any report put forward by

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the Forget Commission and is able to put forward alternative proposals to support the unemployed in their time of need?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, how many times do I have to repeat to the Hon. Member that there are no cutbacks in the Forget Report because there is no Forget Report? We are going to wait until November 30, and then we will talk about the Forget Report.

[English]

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of consternation out there now. No matter what the Forget Commission says, can the Government not make a commitment today that that report will be sent to the Standing Committee of the House for a complete examination by all Parties in the House before any cuts are implemented? Can the Minister make that commitment today?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): A year ago, this Government set up a *bona fide* commission that would report to the Government, and whether the Hon. Member likes it or not, we are going to wait for the Commission's recommendations before taking any kind of action.

[English]

BENEFITS PAID TO FISHERMEN

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration. Fishermen and their families from coast to coast know that the concept of annualization, if applied to them, will force them onto the welfare rolls and will push their communities into a deepening cycle of poverty. Could the Minister reassure these people that there will not be cuts to the unemployment insurance program, cuts that will either decrease their eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits or decrease the benefits they will receive?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, earlier, the Prime Minister referred to the statement in the Budget. Do I have to repeat it once more?

[English]

He said that he wants to emphasize that we are not undertaking this review with an objective of reducing federal contributions to the unemployed. I think that is very clear.

CALCULATION OF PENSIONS AS INCOME

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I will get a more positive answer to this