

*Oral Questions*

## CITIZENSHIP STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SOLICITOR GENERAL

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, it sounds to me as if the Minister is renegeing on the commitment that he made in the House that the activities of the Government would continue while the commission is working. He is now saying that he is satisfied to let the commission do the work. Does he agree with the Solicitor General, who recently said that seeking to take away Canadian citizenship from war criminals here in Canada was too complicated and that it should not be done, without even waiting for the royal commission's views on that remedy?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, during the whole period from 1945 to 1957 and from 1965 to 1985, during all of which time the Hon. Member's Party was in office with the exception of eight brilliant months, rudely terminated for the wrong reasons at the wrong time, the Immigration Act was never used by that Liberal administration in this connection. Now the hon. gentleman complains that it is not being used at the moment. It is not being used at the moment because, as he knows, of the difficulties in providing evidence, and because under that administration the documents were destroyed. Records were destroyed, and you cannot show what statements were made when people were admitted here as immigrants back in the 1950s, 1960s, and so on. The Hon. Member's administration made it impossible for that to be an effective device. Surely he should wait until the end of the year to see what the royal commission recommends. Now that he is the Opposition, he is carrying on as though he were intensely interested in this matter.

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## SPACE WEAPONRY

## UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question on the star wars initiative, the Strategic Defence Initiative and the evaluation now taking place in Canada. I want to address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Acting Prime Minister and Acting Minister of National Defence. Can the Minister explain why it is that despite the scientific implications of any Canadian participation in the research program of the United States for the SDI, and the fact that research by Canada could suck dollars away in a major way from other Canadian research and development, and therefore have grave implications for Canadian scientific R & D, the Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Cabinet has had no involvement, has not been approached, and does not anticipate being involved in any significant way with the work presently under way to evaluate the invitation that Canada has received from the U.S. administration? Why has that Minister been excluded when he is the chief—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

• (1140)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Hon. Member has not been paying attention or if he has suddenly developed an interest in this question. The situation is that a senior Canadian public servant has been sent to the United States to seek detailed information on the implications, including the scientific implications, of the invitation for Canada to take part in research into the Strategic Defence Initiative. That official will report his findings back to the Cabinet of Canada, and the Cabinet of Canada includes, very prominently and actively, the Minister of State for Science and Technology. The Cabinet of Canada, including that Minister, will then take its decision.

## EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could let the Minister know that earlier this week the Minister of State for Science and Technology said the following at the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee:

—nor do I anticipate being involved in any significant way with the work which is presently under way to evaluate the invitation that Canada has received from the U.S. administration.

Why is it that no effort is being made here in Canada to evaluate the scientific implications? Why are we simply sending someone to the United States to look at the Americans' evaluation of the scientific implications?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of State for Science and Technology, the Prime Minister, and I have been saying is that we have asked a senior public servant to seek particular information about the implications of an invitation. That is the job given to Dr. Kroeger and the team he assembled. There is no need at all for Ministers of the Crown to duplicate the work that we have assigned to him.

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## NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

## INVESTIGATION INTO LETTING OF CONTRACTS

**Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as Minister responsible for the National Capital Commission. Can the Minister confirm press reports that the NCC general manager has taken a leave of absence from his job pending the conclusion of an investigation by the RCMP into possible criminal activities in the letting of contracts by the Commission? If so, can the Minister comment on the status of this matter?

[Translation]

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, all I can say for the time being is that on May 15,