

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Henderson:**—that the former Minister of Fisheries was pushed out of the Cabinet—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oops!

**Some Hon. Members:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Henderson:**—by a Prime Minister who is trying to cover up his own blunders?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Withdraw, Nunziata, withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. Members have apparently heard something which I did not hear. I was listening to the Hon. Member for Egmont.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** One of the jerks sitting next to him! Not that jerk, the one over there.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members may wish to raise something after the Question Period. The Hon. Member for Egmont.

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I said anything unparliamentary in my question. I wish to repeat my question. The Prime Minister gets caught sometimes in conflicting reports, his own reports. Will the Prime Minister now admit that the former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans was pushed out of the Cabinet by a Prime Minister who was trying to cover up his own mistakes and blunders?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is on the public record and it is resolved.

**Mr. Speaker:** A short supplementary.

## INQUIRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, it is nothing new for the Government to give one message to Canadians and a different message to Americans. Why does the Prime Minister continue to try to undermine the credibility of the former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who has served this House for a number of years and who is a very credible individual? I may have some problems with the former Minister's judgment, but his character is A-1. I want the Prime Minister to admit that.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam.

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## NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE COMMAND

## RENEWAL OF CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and the President of the United States in separate written statements in Washington stated this week that the

renewal of the NORAD Agreement is, and I quote, "fully consistent with the ABM Treaty". Will the Prime Minister elaborate for us today? Does his statement in Washington clearly mean that Canada will not become involved through NORAD, or in any other way, in an active ballistic missile defence?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that has always been clear.

**Mr. Broadbent:** We couldn't hear you!

**Mrs. Maily:** Use your hearing device!

## ABM CLAUSE INQUIRY

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Prime Minister said yes, that that was the meaning of the statement in Washington, that is, that Canada would not become involved in any way in an active ballistic missile defence. Therefore, why was that clause—and I have used the exact words—not reinserted in the NORAD Agreement where it would really count?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this seems to be the day for repetition. The Hon. Member, and others in the House, have put that question on several occasions. She knows the answer is that the former Liberal Government—

**Ms. Jewett:** You weren't even in Washington!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):**—took that clause out of the treaty because circumstances have changed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** It certainly is a day for repetition!

## CANADA-UNITED STATES DISCUSSIONS

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, just to pick up on the point raised by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, indeed the clause was taken out because the ABM was not in issue. It is now in issue again. Did the Prime Minister try to convince the President to reinsert that clause in the NORAD renewal agreement? Does the Prime Minister not consider its absence a serious omission?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I was involved in those negotiations—

**Mr. Lapierre:** You were not there!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):**—I was involved in the discussions which resulted in the statement by the Prime Minister and the President during the Summit in Washington. The concern that existed in Canada was that there might be some question raised about the integrity of the ABM system. That was clear from the report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence that was tabled in the House.