

supporting the actions of this government on the export tax.

The export tax is not there against Canadian workers. It is not there against legitimate Canadian exports of tobacco products. It is there as a broader package against the smuggling of cigarette products back into Canada. If we put a dent into smuggling, we will not only protect the jobs of Canadian retailers and wholesalers in the industry but in fact we will be in a position to protect and create some more jobs for Canadians.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In 1985 the Prime Minister categorically rejected Canadian government participation in the U.S. strategic defence initiative or star wars. Apparently star wars is now back on the Prime Minister's desk under the beguiling name Global Protection Against Limited Strikes or GPALS.

Will the Prime Minister agree that this project is in violation of Canadian policy expressed at the UN, is in violation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty of 1972 and is a complete contradiction to the findings of a committee of this House? Will the Prime Minister assure the House that not \$1 of Canadian public money will be spent on this boondoggle?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend would agree the threat to the proliferation of nuclear missiles has certainly been a great concern to members of this House and all Canadians. We are obviously also concerned about ballistic missile defence.

The project that my hon. colleague refers to is very different from the SDI referred to in the mid-1980s.

• (1450)

We have made no decision about participation. I think it would be wise, obviously, to get more information and to be involved in consultations in order to ensure that if anything does happen it would be done within the legal and the policy confines of our government and other governments as well.

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Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, it is already very clear from public information, as the minister will know, that it is in violation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty and involves the abandonment of that treaty.

In 1985 before the government got involved and made the policy decision it made, there was a full public joint committee that toured this country and heard from the public. That was before a decision was made. That committee recommended no to star wars.

Will the minister commit the government before any Canadian involvement in this project takes place that there will be a similar public parliamentary review of this project?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. colleague is aware that even in the U.S. Congress they have passed laws that provide very strict limitations in the context of any program.

We are not talking about the star wars program at all. It is far too early. There have not been any discussions. I think it would be wise just to get more information about what may be proposed, Canada along with other countries around the world, to determine whether or not it is a program in which we might even wish to enter into any further longer term discussions.

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THE BUDGET

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

In the minister's budget he said that we will sell surplus lands at Downsview. Following the budget speech, neither the Treasury Board officials who administer federal government lands nor the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation officials who own some but not all of the government lands at Downsview, nor the minister's own officials knew what lands the minister was referring to.

Does the minister know? If he does, will he tell us?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to inform my colleague that for clarification, the 50 hectares of land which are under the jurisdiction of CMHC are certainly not slated