

explain how, after the moratorium, they tightened up the process of granting these research tax credits. I wonder as well if the Minister can confirm that it will take a minimum of \$12 million and some 90 auditors just to audit this tax credit scheme?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member points out a very relevant problem with which this Government has had to come to grips. There is no doubt that the SRTC program has been an embarrassment and caused difficulties. It is not an embarrassment for our Government because it is something we inherited, and we are doing the best we can. I think the Minister of Finance ought to be congratulated for the promptness with which he acted to close off this program which has caused so many difficulties and problems for the taxpayer. I appreciate his help in this regard.

To the extent that I can be forthcoming with information, I will. However, I repeat that I cannot give information in an irresponsible way in the House of Commons which affects the rights of individual taxpayers or companies.

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#### SPORTS

##### NATIONAL SKI TEAM—INSURANCE COVERAGE

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport. He is well aware of the very significant role which the Canadian Ski Team has played in developing our national spirit and pride. Will he advise the House what progress, if any, has been made in solving the liability insurance crisis of the team and saving the rest of the ski season?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the insurance industry has responded positively to our challenge and is today presenting a proposal to the Canadian Ski Association. I am confident that this initiative will enable the Canadian Ski Team to complete its season as planned. In the meantime we are actively pursuing other options in order to develop a long-range, comprehensive solution for all amateur sports affected by these insurance difficulties.

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#### TRADE

##### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—POULTRY AND DAIRY MARKETING BOARDS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who is responsible for the free trade negotiations with the U.S. Ambassador Niles said yesterday that Canada must place everything on the negotiating table. Yet many farmers in the

poultry and dairy industries are concerned about the loss of marketing boards in these negotiations. Can the Minister assure these farmers who want to buy quotas and expand that the marketing boards will not be negotiated away in these negotiations?

• (1450)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Government has made clear for some time that it regards the system of marketing boards which is in place in the country as part of the distinctive fabric of the country. We do not intend to change the distinctive fabric of our country.

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Does that mean that the Government is withdrawing marketing boards for agricultural commodities, such as we have in poultry and dairy, and the Canadian Wheat Board, from the table in negotiations with the United States?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we cannot withdraw something that was not there.

#### PUBLICATION OF STUDIES

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I want to start out by saying that the petty, partisan answers of the Minister of External Affairs debase this House—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order! Order, please! I interrupted the answer of the Right Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs for the same reason I am interrupting the Hon. Member's preamble. Could he just put his question?

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I have a serious question which must be put in the House. It is the following. How can the Government persist in criticizing the studies that other Governments, such as those of Ontario and Manitoba, make public, and yet keep all federal studies secret? How can the Government be taken seriously when it follows that course?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member would know, he is incorrect when he suggests that all federal studies are secret. He, the House, and anyone seriously interested in the approach being taken with these potential negotiations, would know that one of the signal accomplishments of the First Ministers' Conference, presided over by the Prime Minister, was an agreement between federal and provincial Governments that we would work together on the establishment of common facts and a common data base as a prelude to any negotiations. That process is now well advanced.