

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I recall very clearly the exchange last December 4 and December 5 in respect of the Hon. Member's question. He knows that the committee chairman requested a list of all unclassified agreements and that the committee has received this. He also knows that the committee has made no request for classified information. He also knows that I offered, last December, *in camera* briefings if I were to receive a request from the committee. I have not received such a request.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. He will know that he made a commitment to keep the committee members informed about all titles of defence agreements between the United States and Canada. The question is simple. Why did the Minister not inform the committee of the existence of these documents, instead of trying to weasel out of it now?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the committee requested and received the information it sought. It has not requested classified information, a request which I told the Hon. Member last December I would consider if it were made. Indeed, I reminded him that I was appearing before the committee the very next week, after he put his question, so that he could question me fully on these matters, and he failed to ask a single question in respect thereto when I did appear.

## TORPEDO TEST RANGE AGREEMENT

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister and it is on the same matter. At least one of the agreements we learned about over the weekend which had been denied to us before is unclassified. The Minister may not be aware of that. It is the exchange of notes to provide for the continued operation and maintenance of the torpedo test range in the Strait of Georgia. In view of the fact that that is unclassified and was left out of every list the committee was provided, is it not the case that the Minister and the Government wanted to deny the committee and the people of Canada knowledge of any agreements having to do with nuclear co-operation, nuclear deployment on Canadian soil?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, that is a very mischievous question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Hon. Member—

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** You have a mighty short memory.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Hon. Member knows that that arrangement has been in the public domain for many, many, many years.

**Ms. Jewett:** Why wasn't it on the list?

**Mr. Nielsen:** How she has been so lax in bringing herself up to date in respect of that knowledge I cannot explain, but it certainly has been in the public domain long enough for even her to have learned about it.

**Ms. Jewett:** If I may say so, that was a really feeble answer. This was not given to the committee, and the Minister knows it.

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS INQUIRY

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, in relation to this dozen or more than a dozen documents of which we are now aware, could the Minister tell us whether No. 1811A, the one concerning the placement of U.S. airborne nuclear ASW weapons at bases in Canada, probably Comox and Greenwood, is the agreement concerning which his predecessor denied exactly a year ago that there was any intention in Canada to allow the United States to place nuclear depth charges at those two bases?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, again it would appear—perhaps I am not being fair with the Hon. Member—that she is trying to re-arouse fears that I thought had been put to rest by the very lucid answers of the Secretary of State for External Affairs on many occasions in the House, that there are no nuclear weapons on Canadian soil. We do not intend to have any nuclear weapons on Canadian soil. Why can she not believe it?

**Ms. Jewett:** What about this agreement?

**Mr. Nielsen:** With regard to what she calls an agreement, if the Hon. Member wishes to have any information before that committee, she should ask for it. I have received no request whatsoever in respect of classified information. The unclassified information has all been made available.

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## ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

## LYELL ISLAND LOGGING—REQUEST FOR REIMPOSITION OF MORATORIUM

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Last December the Minister counselled patience regarding the confrontation between the British Columbia Government and the Haida people over the logging on Lyell Island. I would like to ask the Minister whether he is prepared today to use his good offices on behalf of the Government and all fair minded Canadians, to ask the Gov-