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PROGRAM(S)/ SSEA Scrum - House of Commons - May 16
EMISSION(S)

SSEA BOOK

MINA/
 White
 Brady
 Kergin
 Chambers
 McNee
 Mason
 MINT/
 Fountain
 Kneale
 Burbridge
 Boisjoli
 MINE
 USS
 DMF
 DMT
 DMX
 DMXN
 CPD
 SCI/
 Mikkelborg
 Leblanc
 SCS/
 Strouts
 Storsater
 Bouchard
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SSEA: I indicated that I would have no objection if the Committee decided that it wanted to give priority to SDI and other questions. Indeed, there'd be some advantage to that because the Government has to make a decision on the invitation some time in the next 3 or 4 months, and I would welcome the opportunity to hear from Canadians before that happens. As things now stand, the Liberals and the NDP won't let Canadians speak. Now, they may change their position and I hope they do.

Q: (Inaudible).

SSEA: No, I can't.

Q: Legally, you can't do that?

SSEA: Legally, we need to have the agreement of the House to establish a special Joint Committee and, obviously, the next tactic of the Opposition parties who don't want the public to be heard would be to filibuster the Order of Reference. So, if they don't take part in it, there will not be an opportunity through a Parliamentary Committee, for Canadians to be heard on foreign policy. That would be tragic.

Q: But you're saying it would be the Committee's decision what the strategy ...

SSEA: It would be the Committee's decision, but they certainly know my interest in hearing from Canadians on these questions. I think it's very important that Canadians be heard and I hope the two other parties will stop opposing public participation.

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