

ment. Yet this is the government that gave us Investment Canada. "Get more foreign ownership. —do not do anything to ensure that research and development is done by them in this country".

Moments ago the hon. member said that Canada had the most generous tax arrangements to encourage research and development in the world. Oh, yes, we do. We give it to American companies. We give it to foreign companies. They take the money and go home with it.

Yet this government has installed a system for the review of foreign acquisition of Canadian businesses that has utterly failed since its introduction to refuse a single acquisition in all that time.

An hon. member: Not even one?

Mr. McCurdy: Not even one. Not even one.

If it wants to do something about our level of research and development, surely one of the things it might do is find ways of targeting those tax incentives a little more carefully, to be a little more careful about what Canadian businesses are acquired. We cannot afford any more de Havillands, or any more Lumonics, any more Connaughts, any more of the hundreds of examples that could be cited of high intensity technological industries in this country being acquired by foreigners.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most valued institutions for research and development in this country is the National Research Council. The National Research Council submitted a preliminary draft of its five-year plan. This draft was submitted by a president who was hand-picked to go in there and impose the government's priorities on the NRC. He went in with an axe and he axed, and he axed, until around 250 scientists had been lost to the NRC, in a crude and hard attack on those who had devoted many years of their lives to science in this country.

But that same president, that hand-picked axeman of the government, asked because he thought it was sensible to do so, minimally sensible to do so, in that five-year plan, for \$250 million spread over five years so that NRC could adequately fulfil its mission.

They told him after the cabinet sat: "Oh, my God man, you have to cut that back". So that \$250 million proposal never saw the light of day except by virtue of some good hard-working reporters-researchers who found it out.

Supply

Oh, probably there was a brown envelope there somewhere.

What they got after the NRC rewrote its five-year plan was \$50 million spread over five years.

Mr. Speaker, I see you have that incisive look in your eyes again. You got it immediately. That will hardly keep up with inflation. In fact, if one considers what the impact is on IRAP, then you begin to get the message.

The Industrial Research Assistance Program has supported research in small and medium-size companies. It has been the single most valuable government program for the encouragement of industrial research and development.

The president of NRC said it should be funded at a level of \$125 million over five years, that is to say half of all that was originally asked for. It got \$50 million for the entirety of the NRC.

For those people who are interested in jobs and how jobs can be produced efficiently, it should be noted that IRAP is the most efficient job producing program the government has. It is \$15,000 a job.

I would like to see that compared to Hibernia, the program under which the government just gave the multinationals \$1 billion to play with. What was the cost of a single job there?

If there is any kind of consensus in this country and respect for our industrial need, it is that Canada must develop the capacity to produce value added through trade by the investment of knowledge and skills of our people.

We must become a research and development intensive country, and we must have a highly educated and trained work force. We are not doing it. This government thought that all it had to do was open up the country to free trade with the United States together with some embellishments that limit our capacity to undertake the industrial restructuring that we require, such as the ownership rules and so on.

This government has failed to do, as this resolution identifies, what is necessary to encourage industrial research and development. It is steadily eroding its own capacity to do research and development. It has launched an attack on the universities by its cutbacks in EPF. It has incapacitated the universities' capacity to do basic research. It has made it more difficult for students