

*Oral Questions*

\$60 million cut in our research and development expenditures. My question is therefore as follows: Can the Minister tell the House how many jobs will be lost because of this drastic action taken by the Canadian Government?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the cut in expenditures announced last week in our research and development programs, I would like to assure my hon. friend that the Progressive Conservative party will meet its commitment to stimulate research and development during the next few years and that, everything being considered, no jobs will be lost in this sector, which is very important for the economic development of Canada.

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[English]

**THE ECONOMY****INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM—EXPENDITURE REDUCTION**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance just confirmed a few moments ago that there will be a loss of jobs in two years. How does the Minister of Finance square that with what was just said by the President of the Treasury Board?

In the economic statement the Government has cut some \$200 million from the Industrial Incentive Program. This means that areas of the country which do not have private industry will be even further neglected by this Government. Will the Minister tell the House how many more jobs will be lost by that cut in expenditure of \$200 million? How many more jobs will be lost to the poor areas of the country?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, let me try to explain to the Hon. Member. We are convinced that the impact of the economic statement is going to increase confidence and that will lead to job creation.

I recently received a letter from a man who is 94 years old. He said that because of the new Government and the confidence which we are engendering in him, he has gone out and bought a company which was going bankrupt, saved 145 jobs, and is going to create another 25 jobs over the next three months. That is confidence!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Table it!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Sudbury has the floor. Order, please.

**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL****CALIBRATION OF CANCER MONITORING EQUIPMENT—EFFECT OF ECONOMIC STATEMENT**

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. In its economic statement on Thursday the Government announced a number of job cuts in government scientific centres, including the laboratory of the National Research Council which serves as the national standard for radiation. In addition, it is responsible for fine tuning cancer therapy equipment across the country. These cuts will throw into question the amount of radiation which is administered, and make cancer treatments less effective. Will the Minister tell us why the Government has seen fit in the name of restraint, and in a very mindless way, to eliminate very highly skilled technical positions, and at the same time risk the quality and safety of cancer treatment in Canadian hospitals?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. gentleman's question, I will say that the Government indeed has not jeopardized in any way the calibration of cancer monitoring equipment. In fact that was but a very, very small complement of the 30 person years associated with the X-ray and molecular research laboratory which was largely viewed to be expendable by senior officials of the National Research Council.

**Mr. Frith:** Mr. Speaker, I must add that that is not the view of a number of directors of hospitals across this country who have expressed surprise and dismay at the cut in that area.

**POSITION OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment to head that very important Department. Would the Minister tell the House why he went along with a cut which he knows will mean over the long term a loss of skilled jobs to an area in the scientific community of this country in which jobs are hard to come by?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his kind words and also to give him my best wishes in fulfilling his responsibilities.

I want to tell the Hon. Member that I believe, knowing of some of his comments in the past, that he will share our view that getting our economic house in order is the best way to create long-term jobs.

The second point I would like to make, and about which I have obviously made inquiries, is that it is my view, as well as the view within the Department, that the concern the Hon. Member has expressed is not valid. Every step will be taken to protect cancer patients in terms of radiation and to ensure that the veracity of the tests will be maintained. This has not been