

Supply

back, we prefer to hire foreign specialists instead of investing in Canadians by offering them adequate professional and scientific training. In your opinion is this enough for the Government to get a passmark?

Mr. Speaker, it is urgent to correct this situation and stop looking for instant results. As Professor John Polanyi, the Canadian Nobel Prize winner, so perfectly put it, and I quote: "Considering that technology needs science, the temptation is to demand that the people who initiate projects justify them in terms of their technological applications. By constantly seeking short-term benefits, we dismiss scientific effort whose purpose is to answer fundamental questions which later on might lead to brand new applications."

Mr. Speaker, if Canada wants to remain at the forefront of technological changes, it just cannot afford to ignore basic research.

[*English*]

It is interesting that the Prime Minister has received the Weizmann Institute prestigious international award for scientific achievement after so many cuts since 1984. One wonders what prize he would have received had he increased the budget instead. The facts are, to give but a few examples, that there have been serious cuts in many departments. Let us look at a few changes from 1984 to 1985 and 1989 to 1990 in terms of millions of dollars.

Agriculture went from \$347.9 million to \$250.6 million. Atomic Energy went from \$131.7 million to \$112.3 million. Energy research and resources went from \$144.9 million to \$124.7 million. Communications went from \$85.7 million to \$48.3 million. Fisheries went from \$138.8 million to \$107.7 million. Transport went from \$32.6 million to \$27.6 million.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, when someone like Professor Polanyi who was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize feels compelled to tell a young scientist who was seeking his advice about the planning of his own career, and I quote: "The best advice I could give a young Canadian scientist, full of talent and ambition, would be to leave Canada", I suggest we should ask ourselves some questions. If

Canada allows its most talented brains to leave this country, it will never be able to bring them back.

I urge the Government to seriously consider the negative effects of its cut-backs. Does it really want to face another crisis namely, the Canadian scientific brain drain?

• (1730)

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member thinks it important to have technological jobs, which would answer the needs of the industry, I would ask her to put pressure on senators blocking Bill C-21. I would also like to tell her that Canada ranks amongst the countries spending the most on education, we will spend an "active" amount of 29 per cent of \$20 billion on education alone.

The hon. member said earlier that the government has cut transfer payments, but the situation there is completely different. Transfer payments have been frozen. For education, the growth rate per capita stays the same, but it is frozen for two years. So you see, there are no cuts, the situation is totally different. They will resume at the same rate as the Gross National Product, at 3 per cent. I also want to tell the hon. member that since the federal government does not control transfer payments—I certainly do not want this to come somewhat as a shock to the provinces, but many of these do not make an appropriate use of the funds since they do not use them for post-secondary education. And since education comes under provincial jurisdiction, the federal government simply cannot interfere. The hon. member should remember that we are dealing with an enormous federal debt while the provinces are able to stay in the black. So we do what has to be done to ensure that young Canadians receive appropriate training and education.

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): I thank my colleague for her statement. First, I would like to point out with respect to transfers to the provinces and Bill C-21, which is being held up by the Senate, that New Brunswick, to take only one province, will lose \$166 million a year because of C-21.

Mr. Robichaud: Yes, that is terrible!