

Research and development in Canada produces spin-off technologies and businesses, including Aerospace, CAE, Spar, small sized robotics, medical operations and others. All of these have developed over the years because people had faith in what was being done. No other country has such a complete world-class package of peaceful nuclear assets and capabilities as Canada.

• (1220)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hopkins: The Candu reactors continue to out-perform the competition, consistently placing in the top ten. There are research reactors in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and in universities across the country.

The slowpoke reactor is an item that will open Canada up to modern conveniences for many people. It produces both heat and energy. It can be used to produce hydroelectric power and heat for an entire community. It is an ideal way to go for communities in the North. It is an ideal way to go for new discoveries of mines and service communities. Here is your product. It has almost been perfected. Much of the work is being done at White Shell, Manitoba.

I implore the Government: do not cut off the tap when we are moving on to success. The bottom line will always be there, but if the Government destroys its basis for research and development in the energy sector in this country, it will destroy its future. This makes things difficult for competition in industry. We cannot afford to do that. We talk about vision of the North and Canada as a whole, but we must also have vision in innovation. No highly organized or advanced country in the world cuts off its public commitment to research and development. Every advanced country in the world has a strong public commitment to research and development. Canada's record in this regard is going in the other direction. We have a government saying: "Pay your own way". "The bottom line is important". "Boy, we are going to balance the Budget". Balancing the deficit and the national debt is important.

An Hon. Member: How important?

Mr. Hopkins: All right, just listen to this. If you go with your research and development, new ideas and facilities, better products, and market those aggressively in the

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world, you will have a new source of taxation. You will have a product that nobody else has and everyone will want. Hospitals around the world want the cobalt cancer therapy unit. Countries around the world want radio medical isotopes. Open up your minds. If we are innovative we can compete with the world.

We will do so, however, only if we support our research and development in this country. If we tell our researchers we have a problem in a particular area let them solve it. Don't cut them off and say: "Look, we are worried about not getting an immediate return. The public will get worried if they do not see another dollar coming in tomorrow morning". You cannot operate that way. You must look at the longer term. That is where you will get your tax base. You will produce efficient industries in this country. You will produce new products in this country that will be in demand world-wide. You will get your tax dollars on those. The more you hold your country back, the less you have faith in your science community to bring in research and development and new ideas. If you have no faith in them, you will have a brain drain from this country. Researchers will go south of the border. They will go to Britain. They will go anywhere in the world because they have an international product to sell; their skills and knowledge. They will be producing things there and competing against Canadians. The entire issue boils down to faith in ourselves. We must have faith in ourselves and in our science community.

Let us talk about commitment. We can only have commitment if we know what is going on around us and what these things mean. You could give the softwood lumber people a break today if there was a will and a commitment to do it, but there doesn't seem to be any will on the part of this Government to do it. There does not seem to be any will on the part of this Government to push for new research facilities in this country, to barge ahead and produce electrical power.

Let us take a look at another facet of this issue.

An Hon. Member: Do we really have to?

Mr. Hopkins: I know you do not like hearing this because it is too positive. We in the Liberal Party want to put forth positive ideas for you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!