

Oral Questions

above the political manoeuvres of the Conservative Party of Canada?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for recommending policies affecting multiculturalism are mine. I can assure the Hon. Member that I will carry out those responsibilities as I have always done.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the Hon. Member ought not to use this forum for the kind of slander he just offered.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

FUNDING OF SPACE RESEARCH

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Science and Technology concerning the National Research Council funds to be used to finance Canadian participation in research for the United States SDI project. Can the Minister confirm that the study done by the Canadian Institute of Advanced Studies which recommended participation in the project assumed that new research money would be spent and not money taken from existing NRC programs?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's premise is wrong. The Government is not actively involved with any aspect of the SDI project in the United States.

The Canadian space program is a civilian program which included the participation of 13 European countries, Japan and the United States.

USE OF COUNCIL'S FUNDS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that the NRC funds for space research will not be used by NRC personnel but will simply be passed on to large aerospace companies, such as Spar Aerospace, that will get the contracts and the employment? How, without this money, can the Minister say there will be no job cuts at the NRC?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the space program sees an increasing role for the National Research Council. The NRC presently does about 38 per cent of space related activities, namely, the Space Science Program, the Astronauts Program and the Space User Development Program. The Government envisages the role of the NRC to increase significantly over the years of the announcement that we made in May of a more comprehensive space program.

AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. He will know that the grain producers are pleased with the billion dollar promise—

Ms. Copps: Question.

Mr. Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): —but want to have some hand in the system of delivery. Is the Minister prepared to listen not only to the provinces involved but also to the farm community in determining a pay-out which is fair and equitable to all concerned?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's continuing interest in the problems of Canadian farmers. As he will know by discussions that he, I and others have had, and also from responses to questions in the House, we are actively consulting with the provinces. We will be consulting specifically with farm leaders. We are receiving advice throughout the whole farm community, from all regions of the country—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

SIZE OF BUDGET—EFFECT ON PROGRAMS

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Science and Technology. The budget of the National Research Council has been cut since November, 1984, by \$130 million or close to 30 per cent. Will the Minister advise the House which programs the NRC has been forced to slash at its board meeting today as a result of the latest decisions of the Government, to comply with its most recent cuts?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the information which the Hon. Member wishes to introduce in debate here is again not based on fact. There has not been a 30 per cent reduction in NRC funding. It is true that the executive board of the NRC is meeting today and will make an announcement as to the rationalization program that is going on within the NRC consistent with the priority the Government has announced in the Throne Speech.

Mr. Axworthy: That is new, rationalization.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, the Minister said it is not based on fact. I invite him to take a look at the Government's own estimates. Why has the Government asked