

Columbian I am encouraged by the news that capital spending is up in the vital forestry, mineral, and energy sectors.

This is excellent news for all Canadians. It is proof that the economic policies of the Government are working. I applaud the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) for cleaning up the fiscal mess that was left by the previous Government. His actions have restored confidence in our economy, and the results are clearly reaping benefits for Canadians from coast to coast.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WINNIPEG SUGGESTED AS SITE FOR VIROLOGY LABORATORY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the proposed Canadian Virology Laboratory should be located in Winnipeg. Winnipeg already has a solid reputation in the health sciences. The federal Government has appropriately targeted health industries as a priority sector for growth in Manitoba, and it has been working with the Manitoba Government in this regard.

The CVL would serve this goal by its very existence, by attracting private sector activity that values its proximity, and by local subcontracting. Locating the laboratory in Winnipeg would demonstrate a real commitment by the Conservatives to decentralization, and to the policy of fostering regional economic development through the location of national purpose technological investment in areas other than central Canada. If western diversification means anything, surely it means that the CVL should be located in Winnipeg. I call upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to make sure that it does.

I remind all Members that the U.S. Centre for Disease Control is not located adjacent to the federal Health Department headquarters in the District of Columbia, but rather in Atlanta, Georgia, fulfilling a national role from a regional location.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO—REPORTED STATEMENT BY FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of France has made it clear to us what would happen if Canadians were to elect a New Democratic Government.

Mr. Jacques Chirac told us quite frankly that the NDP's proposal to have Canada withdraw from NATO was utopian,

naïve and unrealistic, and that it could bring Canada under Soviet domination.

[English]

In regard to the NDP policy to pull Canada out of NATO, the Prime Minister of France stated:

—there are always people who are idealists, who imagine that the world is good, the world is beautiful, that one can isolate oneself, that one risks nothing. We have known that in France.

The Prime Minister also stated:

You have to be careful with this kind of Utopia.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt about what Mr. Chirac's warning meant: *Vive la France libre! Vive le Canada libre!*

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FORMULATION OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY URGED

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, two years ago the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) received the report of the Inquiry on Federal Water Policy. Canadians are puzzled by the lack of action by the Government to formulate a national water policy, given the urgency and importance of this report.

The report emphasizes that public consultation is only the first step in the development of a national water policy. The next step requires action by the Government.

• (1410)

Among the many recommendations, the report calls on the Government to encourage the development of corporate water conservation plans, to establish minimum quality standards for drinking water throughout Canada and to develop a policy on the export and diversion of water. If he wants to do more than just talk, it is high time for the Minister of the Environment to get going and develop for public debate a national water policy for Canadians.

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THE ECONOMY

GROWTH RATE STATISTICS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, according to the latest data provided by Statistics Canada, the country's economy is registering a remarkable growth rate this year. For the second consecutive quarter, the growth rate has been robust to say the least.