

same time lead to a much higher rate of productivity. I commend them to the Minister of Finance.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

COMMENT MADE BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition was asked whether he thought the United States would use nuclear weapons to defend Europe from a Soviet conventional attack. He answered by saying that this was a "when did you last beat your wife question", whatever he meant by that. Does he mean to say that we should not ask these questions, that we should not talk about all aspects of our nuclear policy?

Disraeli said that ignorance settles nothing. Canadians do not want to be kept in the dark. People are concerned. Many feel helpless. They want our leaders to ask the right questions, even the difficult ones. By keeping quiet, by hushing things up, we do not serve the cause of peace.

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AGRICULTURE

INCREASED FUNDING SOUGHT FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, is Canada's future ability to feed itself threatened by a lack of research talent? Funding of agricultural research should be doubled over the next five years to prevent its decline and to stave off a shortage of trained scientists. Universities are graduating only about 70 students a year with PhDs in agriculture. But that is less than half as many as are needed to fill jobs left vacant by attrition alone. At this rate Canada will be short about 400 scientists by 1990. Governments are just not offering incentives to recruit graduates for further education. Canada should be encouraging Canadian graduates to pursue PhD studies through offering a variety of incentives, such as larger individual research grants.

Funding from our Department of Agriculture is not keeping pace with the rate of inflation. The increase in operating expenses is almost double that of research budget increases. Some buildings and equipment are becoming outdated.

The Government must increase research funding if it is to remain an independent technological entity. Last year Canada spent only .04 per cent of its Gross National Product on agricultural research, compared with .08 per cent in Australia, and .05 per cent in the United States, the latter being a very large amount of money. We must start to pay more serious attention to our agricultural research capabilities and capacities, otherwise Canada will become increasingly dependent on other countries' merging technologies.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

SURPLUS EMPLOYEES IN MINISTRY OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Science and Technology still has several crucial questions to answer to the Public Service Alliance of Canada and this House of Commons regarding the reorganization of his Ministry. Why has the Minister failed to assure those employees declared surplus against lay-offs and downgrading? Twenty four employees remain surplus in this small Department, while 40 positions go unfilled. Those 40 unfilled positions all relate to work already being performed by these surplus employees. With work needing to be done, with qualified employees on hand, common sense and humanity dictate a policy of no lay-offs and no downgrading.

Why does the Minister not end the insecurity which these Canadians and their families suffer? Or is he wedded to a *de facto* policy of administrative patronage? Is the Minister simply a captive of his senior bureaucrats, leaving them free to choose whomever they wish to favour with jobs in his Ministry, rather than choosing among existing qualified experienced employees already in his Department? Fairness calls upon the Minister to provide available jobs to existing and qualified employees in his Ministry, and to reject a practice which has come to be known as administrative patronage.

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PETRO-CANADA

CANADIAN HISTORY QUIZ COMMENDED

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks Petro-Canada has been distributing a game called "Les hauts faits Canadiens—First Canada Quiz," through its stations across Canada. The complementary game is similar to Trivial Pursuit, and its objective is to acquaint Canadians better with various events and personalities in Canadian history; with Canadian achievements in sports and politics; and with geographical and general facts about Canada. The questions included with the game were developed by John Robert Colombo, a renowned specialist in Canadian studies, and a prominent Canadian author.

The board of directors of Petro-Canada are to be commended for introducing this game and for encouraging Canadians to learn more about Canada. Their initiative underscores the positive benefits of encouraging and maintaining Canadian ownership of the petroleum industry. I pay a warm tribute to Petro-Canada for its determination to foster a strengthened Canadian identity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!