

of the returns of research and development on their part because without their participation the business community will be on the outside looking in.

If they are not in a position to reap the rewards of this, then what good is it from our aspect as a country to encourage and promote research and development, to put into place technological innovations and development to sell to other nations in the future? This is vital to the country and falls very nicely into the program that we have embarked upon to this date.

The federal government spent \$5.1 billion in science and technology in 1989 and 1990. I think it is important that we recognize in that figure that it is 4.9 per cent of the government's total 1989-90 expenditure.

The government has increased the percentage of expenditure directed toward science and technology since 1984-85 when it amounted to 4.7 per cent. That certainly underscores our determination and commitment to encourage others to participate at the same level and to ensure that the business climate is such that the profit factor will be significant and substantial. Business will recognize that it has a responsibility to invest, not only in its own future but in the future of the country that has made, particularly within the last few years, all of these opportunities open to them.

That is why we are involved in such programs as the Canada Student Program and the Canada Scholarships Program where we are encouraging thousands of students each year to come into the program.

Over the past two years alone we have awarded almost 5,000 scholarships worth \$8,000 a piece. That is a significant amount of money to Canadian scholars. These are the people to whom we leave the future of this nation and these are the people we must support.

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Madam Speaker, I am very honoured today to participate in this debate.

I find it extraordinary that hon. members opposite can stand in their places and complain about the level of research and development in this country.

Today they ring the clarion for more R and D spending. This House will recall that when it came time to implement measures to assist the research and development community in Canada, the obstructionist tactics of the NDP were exceeded only by the obstruction of Liberal members in the other place. I find it the height of

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hypocrisy to hear hon. members opposite criticize the level of research and development funding in this country when only a few years ago they worked so diligently against measures to promote R and D.

A world class industrial base and a world class competitive economy requires world class intellectual property protection. Intellectual property protection is essential to encourage innovation, international competitiveness and a stronger R and D component in our economy.

Systematically and thoroughly, this government has set about to amend the intellectual property statutes of Canada in order to keep them abreast of contemporary needs. One example is Bill C-57, the Integrated Circuits Topography Act, tabled in this House last December and now awaits second reading. Another example is the amendments to the Copyright Act implemented by this government in the last session of Parliament as a result of Bill C-60.

The House will recall the lively debates which took place in this House and in the other place over changes in the copyright legislation that had long ago been overtaken by the demands of new technology. Perhaps the most notorious struggle for intellectual property rights arose in the last Parliament as a result of the efforts of this government to amend the Patent Act through Bill C-22.

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Hon. members will recall that in exchange for this improved patent protection under Bill C-22, the Canadian pharmaceutical industry undertook to increase R and D from 4.9 per cent of sales revenue in 1987 to 8 per cent of sales by 1991 and 10 per cent by 1996. The government received commitments from the patented medicine industry to invest directly in research and development \$1.4 billion and to create 3,000 jobs between now and 1995.

That is the kind of solid commitment to R and D spending this country needs in order to remain competitive in the global market-place.

Judging from what we have heard today, I would have expected that hon. members opposite would be overjoyed at the prospect of such an infusion into research and development. We know that is not the case. The Liberals and the New Democrats did everything in their power to stall and undermine Bill C-22. The Liberals even resorted to using their majority in the Senate, an