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Funding for scientific research and development increased

Innovation and technological change are the key determinants of Canadian economic growth, and are the only realistic means of improving the ability of the economy to compete with Canada's trading partners, Minister of State for Science and Technology John Roberts said in a speech to the Canadian Association of University Research Administrators in Ottawa, May 5. Excerpts from the speech, which outlined increased spending for research and development, follow:

The Government has affirmed the importance of research and development for our economy, and has recently reconfirmed the national...target of 1.5 per cent of GNP, to be attained by the mid-Eighties. This is an ambitious target, but its achievement will offer significant benefits. To reach the target will mean a strengthened effort by all sectors performing research and development. Currently, in comparing our situation to that in other countries, the share of research and development performed by Canadian industry is one of the lowest, and thus the need for increased research and development the highest. The Government has developed a number of policies and pro-

grams to aid in this. Also, the Government is developing other industrial policies that should help create opportunities for Canadian industry....

The Government wishes to ensure that the university research sector can fulfill the potentials it offers. It has encouraged the Granting Councils to come forward with five-year plans, and these present an opportunity to provide stability to the research community, to generate the momentum necessary for effective research and to permit researchers to pursue the more long-term, broadly-based studies which tend to be ignored in an uncertain budgetary climate....The Government has affirmed the increase in the 1980-81 budget of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of \$41.8 million, raising the budget to a total of \$162.6 million. That is an increase of 35 per cent over last year.

Training programs

...NSERC will be allocating a substantial share of this increase to new training programs to attract the best of our young people into post-graduate research. These new awards will be available in both university and industry and should promote an improved transfer of technology and highly-trained people to industry.

The NSERC funds will support other important objectives as well: they will strengthen the base of research competence...there is provision for replacement of obsolete equipment; and the Council's strategic research programs in areas of national concern will be expanded.

The increase in the 1980-81 budgets of the other two Councils...are: a Medical Research Council (MRC) budget of \$82.2



John Roberts

Sixty-one years ago this week...
The House of Commons adopted a motion prohibiting titles of nobility for Canadians. However, it was not until 1935 that the conferring of titles finally came to an end.