

particular the uranium mines with their inherent problems with regard to radiation exposure. Working together we can change the negative public perception of the miner, and begin to attract young Canadians to this growing industry. They will realize that it does provide an interesting and challenging career option. Government will continue to assist mining communities to provide the level of services and community facilities that will attract this much needed work force. Again, I saw this type of action just this past week in Yellowknife, across Great Slave Lake in the community of Pine Point where all facilities are made available to the workers.

To this end, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see much more research directed specifically to the solution of societal problems associated with the mining industry. In addition to research in the general areas of health, safety and working conditions in mines, I would like to encourage research in the disposal and treatment of effluents from mills and smelters, and in the disposal and treatment of mine and mill waste, as well as more research in the area of nuclear waste disposal. The solution to those societal problems will not only permit a healthier development of the mineral industry, but the technology which is developed to arrive at these solutions can offer exciting opportunities in the manufacturing and service industries, particularly in my sector of the country.

It is the government's intention to use Canada's resource-base as a basic building block in a vigorous industrial strategy. The mineral industry, as one of Canada's foremost resource based industries, now provides considerable stimulation up and downstream in other sectors of the economy. However, if this industry is to achieve its full potential, in regard to its direct contribution to the economy, it must be a technological leader in mining, in mineral processing, and in metal fabrication.

The industry in 1977 spent \$82.4 million on research and development, actually performing \$91.2 million worth of R and D, with the federal government paying the difference. The federal government contributes directly about \$23.9 million more through grants provided by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and through research conducted in EMR and other government laboratories.

This represents about 0.7 per cent of the total value of production, actually directly spent on research and development. I would like to see Canada's research and development effort considerably increased and I was pleased to hear, in the Speech from the Throne, a reaffirmation of the government's intention to increase Canada's over-all expenditure on research and development to 1.5 per cent of the value of GNP. Much of the increased research and development in the minerals sector should be directed to improving the competitiveness and the commercial position of industries in the field of mining, mineral processing, metal fabricating, and mining machinery and supplies.

[*Translation*]

My department will carefully look at a matter that I consider of prime importance, the increased processing of our natural resources at home in Canada. The time I have does not allow

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me, of course, to list all my concerns with respect to the mining sector. So I will be content to say that my department will continue to do everything it can to find solutions to the chronic problems facing this industrial sector.

My department and other departments involved will give particular attention to the following areas—the transportation of raw materials, the health and safety of workers, more advanced processing of our raw materials, an increase in our exports in this area and the elaboration of an infrastructure for the development of northern Canada. I expect to receive the open and full co-operation of all members of this Parliament, particularly those who are closely affected by such matters, and an active and eager participation on their part. So our twofold objective remains the same—the improvement and growth of the mining sector in Canada.

May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to conclude this speech by dealing with a very hot subject, a subject that can leave no Canadian indifferent—the confrontation that is now shaking Quebec and the adverse effect that confrontation can have for both that province and Canada as a whole if it does not come out right. There is no doubt that the French fact is one of the dominant characteristics of the very personality and character of the Canadian people. I strongly suggest that Canada could not exist without a strong presence of the French culture and language. It is time that all Canadians from coast to coast properly recognized and appreciated that wealth which is ours.

On the other hand, I warn all Quebeckers against the disastrous consequences that would result from the separation of Quebec. Outside the Canadian confederative pact, literally drowned in the English-speaking sea of the North American continent, French-speaking Quebec will not be able to keep its culture and language. So it is in the very interest of Quebec and all of Canada that there be a decisive victory on the no side in the Quebec referendum of May 20. A victory for the yes side would mark the beginning of the process of disappearance of the French culture and language on Canadian soil, even in America, and would endanger the very survival of Canada as a distinct nation.

I was raised and worked in a Francophone environment in northern Ontario. I represent a riding whose population is 40 per cent Francophone. Despite my English accent, my Finnish origins, my heart is French; I say it with fervor, with pride. The French fact in Canada blooms far beyond the boundaries of the province of Quebec. I invite Francophone Quebeckers, men and women alike, to visit the many authentically Francophone communities of my riding such as Noëlville, Monetville, Saint-Charles, Azilda and many others. They will see then that the French culture and language have dug their roots deep down in the soil of Ontario. Those men and women of Quebec will then be able to see what irreparable consequences a Yes in the referendum would have for the Francophone