

## S. O. 31

and I am sure that thousands more will do the same over the next few days.

I wonder if the member opposite will put his phone number so people can call him and see what he will do. They do not have to pay 50 cents when they call you. However, I am going to give them the number.

I call on all concerned Canadians to call 1-900-720-6051 or 1-900-720-6052. Let this uncaring government know that the people of Canada will not let this tax pass without a fight.

If any of you have any guts, put your phone numbers up and see how the constituents are going to call you.

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## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

**Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, Canadian companies can count on the National Research Council for many kinds of help. One is relatively new, but it is working well. It involves a group of companies willing to work together with NRC to conduct what is termed "pre-competitive research".

The NRC has signed an agreement with a consortium of loudspeaker designers and manufacturers to do the pre-competitive research necessary to develop the next generation of smart loudspeakers.

It is very rewarding to see Canadian companies, many of them competitors, working together with NRC at a pre-competitive level. Increasingly, this collaborative approach is necessary to remain competitive in world markets. This would not be possible without the help of the NRC.

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## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, the government has again attempted to undermine research and development, long term economic growth and the competitiveness of Canadian business in world markets with the recent decision in the 1990 budget to cut science and

technology spending by \$39 million, to reduce transfers to the provinces for education, and most recently the cut-back on research staff. Further, a letter written by the president of the council indicates that steps to privatize the National Research Council are being taken.

In an area in which technological preparedness is a key determinant of strength of the Canadian economy, the National Consortium of Scientific and Educational Societies recently recommended that the government increase investments in research performed by federal laboratories. It is imperative that the development of scientific research and technology be encouraged and funded publicly, as well as privately.

While research activity in the private sector has increased in recent years, current forecasters predict a decline in R and D spending over the next five years in anticipation of an economic downturn. The government must increase investment—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Yesterday the State of Iraq executed Farzad Bazoft, in violation of international law. Mr. Bazoft was aged 31. For what cause, Mr. Speaker? Because he was a journalist in search of a story.

This was a barbaric act and deserves the condemnation of civilized people everywhere in the world. I call upon the Canadian Government to recall the Canadian Ambassador from Iraq and for the nations of the world to take economic sanctions against this barbaric regime.

I call on the House of Commons to pause for a few seconds in solidarity with the journalists from the London *Observer* who had a silent vigil in front of the Embassy of Iraq in London.

This was a barbaric and tragic act and a blow to freedom of expression and to journalists everywhere in the world.