

*Supply*

hill in Victoria, I gather by animal power, at a time when Canada was so young, so new and engaged in a world war.

Where is that commitment now? Why is it that this government is not saying to Canada's young people: "We are committed to making Canada a leader in science based innovation"? Why is it that I drive in from the airport with a taxi driver who has a Ph.D. in engineering who says that he has not been able to find a job in engineering for three years, which is why he is driving a taxi.

I received a call from a young woman science student in my constituency, a student funded under the Canada Scholarships Program. This program is supposed to especially encourage women to pursue careers in science. She tells me that because of some technicality in the McGill program, after being told that her scholarship had been renewed, it has been eliminated by a government that does not really care. This is after she has already embarked on her studies. Why do these things happen?

Why is it that the president of NSERC has to tell a House of Commons committee that if he does not find out soon whether or not his budget is going to be maintained stable next year, he does not know how much time is going to be wasted by university scientists who are preparing applications for grants?

Why is it that we are not going forward to the people of Canada, as President Kennedy did in the United States in 1961 with the space program, saying to them: "By the year 2000 Canada will be the world leader in environmental technologies"? Why are we not opening our doors to scientists from all over the world, telling them that if they want to make a contribution in environmental technologies, Canada is the place to do it, that Canada will fund and welcome them? Why not? I do not understand it?

Why is it that we are so preoccupied with today's deficit that we cannot see that by investing in science and technology, especially in those people oriented to preserving and enhancing the environment, that we will ensure that tomorrow we will have the solution to the deficit, that tomorrow we will sell our products to the world, a world that is anxious to receive them.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this House should express its discontent with the government because of its lack of commitment to the National Research Council

and its lack of commitment to basic research in Canada because these are the crucial issues of today.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, first I want to compliment my colleague for a passionate and very substantive address on this issue. Before I address my question to him, I want to say that I have been noticing in the last few days that this government has been retreating from its responsibilities. Have you noticed, Mr. Speaker, that if the word "national" or the word "Canada" is in the name of an institution that it denotes an immediate decentralization process, whether it is Air Canada or Petro-Canada? The philosophy is: "Let's sell it off". The government will even change the names of the museums. It is an incredible thing.

**Mr. Beatty:** There is still Health and Welfare Canada.

**Mr. Mills:** They have not got to you yet, minister.

Here we are with the National Research Council and the process of decentralization has begun. This government is a *maître d'* to the provinces. It is really becoming quite serious.

My specific question to my colleague is this. The Canadian Space Agency which had its foundations in the national capital region was moved to Montreal some few months ago. This is where labs, families and institutions had begun the process of galvanizing. Does my colleague think that the move of the Canadian Space Agency to Montreal was in the national interest?

**Mr. Manley:** We debated the bill to create the Canadian Space Agency in this House last spring. At that time I talked about Canada's commitment to the space program and the value that Canada's contribution in space technology has made to the world. In fact, Canada is one of the few countries which actually exports more in space technology than the government spends on it. That is a pretty good recommendation for the fact that early on in the space program we committed ourselves to being part of that program. Other countries, such as Japan and the United Kingdom have been trying to catch up to us. We moved ahead. We were early and we have achieved a lot on it. That commitment needs to continue.

What the government did with the establishment of the Canadian Space Agency was to turn it from being a symbol of national pride in our achievement in space technologies into a political football. We had rival municipalities arguing whether they or another place should be the new headquarters of the Canadian Space Agency. You will notice it is called the "Canadian" Space Agency, not the "National" Space Agency. That rivalry, those arguments, detracted so badly from the establishment of what should have been a source of