

sure that there are specific contracts for R and D in order to protect Canadian jobs?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) is confusing the general question of the income tax system and the benefits which it provides to encourage investment in Canada and, in turn, the creation of jobs, with the necessity for more Canadian companies to make a larger commitment to research and development. If he is talking about the former—and I know the Leader of the Official Opposition can defend himself much more eloquently than I—I would like to submit that the Iron Ore Company in terms of return on investment probably did not enjoy a greater rate of return than most of the other industries in Canada during that period. If the Hon. Member is alleging that R and D dollars were somehow siphoned off, then I would like to see the evidence of that.

I would say, however, that the United States has traditionally relied on research contracts and I have been the beneficiary of such contracts myself. These contracts were closely monitored and in accordance with clearly defined national goals as to areas of technological opportunity. This Government has not made use of that tool very effectively, has not injected professional judgment in establishing research priorities, nor has it followed up the return on that investment. Instead it throws money at the Maislins, and at every failing industry in order to bail them out or to build some kind of new unnecessary plant in the riding of the former Minister of Fisheries; but it does not monitor the return on such expenditures.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

CANCELLATION OF EUROPEAN TRIP IN ORDER TO ATTEND PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, Canadians just had a narrow escape. The Leader of the Opposition has cancelled his trip abroad, claiming that he would rather be in the House for the Budget Speech on February 15. However, Canadians know perfectly well that all this is just a manoeuvre

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by the Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney), to find an honourable way out of the serious problem his advisers have been facing for several weeks, namely the prospect of having him travel all over Europe.

They have the Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) to tell him when to sit down and when to stand, when to speak and when to be silent, or the advice of that jack-of-all-trades, the Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle). That is not quite good enough, however, the Leader of the Opposition still thinks, for instance, that the Iron Curtain was manufactured by the Iron Ore Company.

The weekend, however, brought some fresh ideas for the Progressive Conservative Party. The new expert on international affairs and former Leader, the Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), suggested the Party Leadership be modelled on the two-goaltender system used in the National Hockey League. If the present Leader were to be unwell, temporarily or for some time, the former Leader could take over. An excellent idea, and I am sure the Conservatives would not hesitate to send the Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) on that hazardous trip since he acquired considerable experience in international politics when he led the country in 1979.

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[English]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

CRITICISM OF PORTRAYAL OF VICTORIA CROSS WINNER'S CAREER

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, the National Film Board should be publicly condemned and taken to task for trying to destroy the memory, reputation, and achievements of Canada's number one air ace of World War I, William Avery (Billy) Bishop, V.C. The National Film Board's portrayal in its film "The Kid who Couldn't Miss" is nothing but infamous, libelous trash which goes to great length to defame our national hero on so-called evidence and interviews given by individuals some 65 years after the fact.

William Avery Bishop, a native of Owen Sound, Ontario, won the highest possible honor, the Victoria Cross, by downing 72 enemy aircraft in World War I. His feats of bravery, valor and distinction were witnessed and verified by Allied ground troops only a few miles from the dog fights. To have the National Film Board now say it is not so, that it is not true, is a case of blasphemy and slander that must not go unheeded.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Government, on behalf of the people of Canada, to censure the National Film Board publicly and, in particular, the producer-director of this film, Paul Cowan, who is directly responsible for this outrage.