

Business of the House

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that in Manitoba approximately 350 applications have been received from a variety of sources. To date, 35 projects worth about \$12.6 million have been approved for Manitoba. Details will be announced shortly.

Mr. Broadbent: He just happened to have them with him.

Mr. Mazankowski: That is right, I just happen to have them. I guess that is good anticipation, Mr. Leader of the New Democratic Party.

I think it is most unfair when one does these periodic comparisons, because the response to the western diversification initiative has been overwhelming. There have been some 55,000 inquiries and a number of applications. The fact that it is a new initiative means that we have had some growing pains. However, I think that quite clearly applications are being processed in a much more expeditious manner and announcements are being made. I am sure my hon. friend will welcome that. I am sure Manitoba will be well looked after in the process.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the fact is that Manitoba has not received its fair share. One of the major claims about this fund was that decisions would be made at a regional level. The Premier of Manitoba claimed last week that many of the decisions are tied up in the bureaucratic mess in Ottawa. When will the Government get its act together and let the regions do the things they are prepared to do?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that has clearly been the intention. As I said, the response to the program indeed has been overwhelming. There have been tens of thousands of applications submitted, and many inquiries. There has been a pipeline to fill and I think my hon. friend will see that in the next short while the approvals will be announced in a much more expeditious manner. As I said earlier, I am sure that Manitoba will be receiving its fair share.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question of Question Period.

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RESEARCH

FUNDING OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Science and Technology I will put my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. From the time the Government took office it has cut funds for research, science, and technology, and done its level best to drive scientists out of the country. In January a board set up by the Prime Minister

and chaired by him recommended a 100 per cent increase over two years in funds for university research.

How can the Deputy Prime Minister justify a 7 per cent annual increase which rejects the advice of a board chaired by the Prime Minister and which will drive more scientists out of the country?

[Translation]

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, I find it quite appalling to listen to the Liberal Opposition. Instead of congratulating the Government for having injected more than \$520 million in our universities for research and development, they complain that this is not enough. The Liberal Party should remember that during its many years in power it never gave the field of science and technology the attention it deserved. Instead of complaining today, the Hon. Member should congratulate the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government!

[English]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, under the Centres of Excellence Program announced yesterday, many universities will not even be able to apply for funds because the Government refuses to fund research costs fully. Will the Minister explain why the Government has rejected another critical recommendation made by the board chaired by the Prime Minister to fund fully the cost of university research?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Once more, rather than complain in the House the Liberal Party spokesman in this area should congratulate the Government for what it has done for university research. Of course, when the previous Liberal Government totally neglected R and D in Canada, we will not be able to correct the situation in a matter of a few months. It is good solid progress that is well received by universities all across Canada.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, will the Deputy Government House Leader give us the statement of business for the coming week?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will resume debate on Bill C-117, the Excise Tax Act. There is an understanding among the Parties that the debate will be