before 1984, when his party was in office. But let me tell you something, as an entrepreneur, during 1980, 1981, 1982, and I am also saying this for the benefit of our NDP colleague, interest rates reached 20 per cent, 21 per cent, and 22 per cent. And because of those high interest rates, I saw people in my own constituency who had to give up their homes. If we had bankruptcies in those years, it was all because of the Liberal Party.

So you have to be careful when you compare cabbage to carrots. As far as I am concerned, I would rather look for carrots where I can find rabbits.

[*English*]

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I think all hon. members on this side and those on that side who are neither deaf nor blind will know that my question to the hon. member was rather specific. It cited increased expenditures by this government on science from $4 billion when it came into office to $5 billion now. I asked him to do what I do not really think is the impossible, namely to do a little mathematics: divide those figures appropriately and what he would come out with is an annual rate of increase of roughly 5 per cent. The hon. member has already said, because he said it specifically, that inflation would have eaten up that increase.

In fact there has not been any significant real dollar increase in expenditures for research and development by this government and, as has been cited by almost everyone, the percentage of the gross expenditures for research and development attributable to the government has fallen from roughly 25 per cent when this government came into office to roughly 19 per cent now, while the industrial rate of expenditures has increased to around 50 per cent from 47 per cent formerly.

The hon. member, as enthusiastic as he may be, has not paid very much attention to the facts.

This debate, generally speaking, is about this government's economic policy. It addresses such issues as the high interest and the high dollar policy and it looks at support for export promotion in science and technology, and research and development as significant elements in any economic policy and condemns in effect the government for its failure in these areas.

• (1800)

I hope I will have time to say something about the area which is of most interest to me within the context of this debate, but I think it would be useful to consider the impact of this government's policy on one single city in the country: Windsor. Windsor of course is a community highly dependent on the automobile industry. It is a part of those three or four cities that have a very large measure of impact on the entire Canadian economy. In fact, if one wanted to anticipate the results of this government's economic policies, one should have looked at Windsor a year ago.

What is the situation now? Using the February figures we obtained from the Canada Employment Centre, the unemployment rate in Windsor was 17.6 per cent. In other words, one person in five was unemployed. If we take into account those people who were unemployed due to so-called temporary lay-offs which amounts to about 4,000, there being about 24,000 people unemployed, we still have an unemployment rate of 14.1 per cent.

These unemployed people are going to the unemployment insurance office where there are not enough public servants to serve their needs. A consequence of that is that they are waiting around to get their benefits and meanwhile social assistance in Windsor has to pay the cost. It issues the cheques and runs back and pays it back and all kinds of rigmarole. We should also point out of course that since those people who are unemployed do not collect benefits for as long as they used to, that is another imposition on the welfare load. Of course the city is going to encounter a number of additional expenses, but let us put it down in simple terms.

The city of Windsor will realize another $1 million in welfare costs as a direct result of this government's policies. That is, January over January, 1990. The welfare cost to the municipalities in the province will rise from $5 billion to over $15 billion.

That is a reflection of what is happening to the automobile industry which is partly due to the recession this government so carefully caused because of its wrong-headed economic policy. Even beyond that, even before this recession hit, thousands of jobs were lost in the auto parts industry because the plants are moving down to Missouri and to Mexico.