

*Oral Questions***REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

SPACE AGENCY—MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion or to the Minister responsible for Science and Technology. It concerns the awarding of research and development contracts to Quebec. As months go by, it becomes increasingly clear that Quebec is the federal Government's poor relation. We get the leftovers!

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Malépart: If we consider the figures for April, only \$190,000 out of \$13 million; in May, \$788,000 out of \$14 million. The Quebec Government and even the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Parizeau, have said that Quebec was not being treated fairly by the federal Government. And we are still waiting for a decision on the space agency.

My question for the two Ministers is this: Is the Government waiting to announce that the space agency will go to Quebec until all contracts have been awarded, which would mean the space agency would only administer contracts being carried out outside Quebec, or is the Government simply waiting for an election to be called so it can put this to political advantage?

[English]

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is simply repeating what he has done in the past, and that is to quote selectively the performance of one Department, that is, the Department of Supply and Services. I can tell the Hon. Member that, in terms of contracts for the Province of Québec, in the term that we have been in power Québec has received in the grants area 49 per cent of the total national performance.

It is true that on the contract side it is somewhat less, but the average was 34 per cent. I can tell the Hon. Member that in one month the Department of Supply and Services issued 47 per cent of its total allocations for science and technology to the Province of Québec. It is quite true that in other months the performance has not been as high, but Québec has been treated very well by the federal Government in terms of science and technology.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MONTREAL BE CHOSEN AS SPACE AGENCY SITE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, Quebec wants to know who is telling the truth. The Minister has certainly put himself in an awkward situation. Yesterday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said at a press conference in Quebec that it was true Quebec was not getting its fair share. And the Hon. Minister just told us we were getting more than we deserve. Quebecers would like to know who is telling the truth. I am convinced that Parizeau,

Bourassa, the Mayor of Montreal and the Official Opposition are all telling the truth—that Quebec is not getting its fair share. Why don't you announce right now that the space agency will go to Montreal, with contracts?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, there are certainly a lot of people who are telling the truth, especially the Government. However, sometimes I have my doubts about the Opposition.

If we look at the published statistics, my colleague was quite right. Monthly figures on contributions and contracts for research and development in science and technology across the country vary enormously. I think the Hon. Member will have to admit that according to statistics published in recent years, percentages have varied from very low in certain months to as high as nearly 50 per cent.

If we look at the average federal contributions for research and development to industry, we see that in 1986-87, and the latest figures we have are for that year, Quebec received 34.3 per cent of federal contributions, while Ontario received 28.8 per cent, the Atlantic provinces 8 per cent and the rest 14.3 per cent. For the benefit of the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie, I would like to say that these statistics were provided by Statistics Canada in a report called: *Federal Government Science Expenditures by Region 81-82 to 86-87*. So I think that the distribution is fair and equitable, and that using monthly statistics only distorts the picture for Canadians.

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[English]

HOUSING

PUBLIC WORKS—TRANSFER OF LAND TO VAUGHAN MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Public Works. Public Works Canada is about to transfer 100 acres of land to the municipality of Vaughan just north of Metro Toronto.

In view of the critical shortage of affordable housing in the entire Metro region, I ask the Minister if the Government will reconsider this matter to see if a town of 57,000 people needs 100 acres for its institutions, and if the Government can arrange that a majority of this land will be devoted to affordable housing?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the land to which the Hon. Member has referred has not yet been sold. As a condition of any sale Public Works is seeking a commitment from the Town of Vaughan that part of