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reasonable Members of this House, or by the science community, or by the business community at large. These initiatives sound great, when in reality they may be misdirected efforts and the wrong application of funds.

If Parliament is to be effective in evaluating research opportunities to generate wealth for Canada and real jobs for Canadians, it must have a meaningful forum in which to do so. Such a forum would be a standing committee on science and technology, made up of Members in all Parties, a committee that would be able to listen to the concerns and ideas of the real world. The committee could hear scientists and experts on important subjects, such as specific job creation in high tech industries, the upgrading of lower tech industries, a more efficient extraction process in mining, better means of transportation, reduction in acid rain emissions, and many other important issues which must be effectively addressed if we are to regain our economic stability.

● (1110)

Last year all Parties in the House agreed to the need for such a committee. A joint recommendation was made to all three House Leaders, and they agreed with the need. Is it because the Government is still unaware of the real value of science and technology and has learned nothing in the past 16 years that we do not now have such a committee? Does the Government intend to continue issuing spurious announcements which are intended only to influence voters?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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[*Translation*]

CITY OF MONTREAL POLICE

TRIBUTE TO CORPS

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean.

Mr. Pierre Gimaiél (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I have a very special reason for asking to speak in the House today. I suppose that like most Canadians and especially Quebecers, you were able to follow what happened during the last forty-eight hours to a little Montreal girl, Véronique Rocheleau, who is eight years old. Yesterday, the story had a happy ending, and today in the House, I wish to emphasize, first of all, the work done by the Montreal Police Corps and by all the people of Montreal. All Quebecers and people everywhere in Canada were anxious to hear the little girl had been found, and as the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean and speaking on behalf of the people of my riding and my colleagues, I would like to say that we are very happy that this story ended as it did and that this little girl was able to escape and go back to her parents.

Mr. Speaker, this series of events was particularly moving since as a result, the whole country became involved, at least in

spirit, and we must thank God that everything turned out well and hope there will be no similar incidents in this beautiful country of ours.

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[*English*]

EDUCATION

FINANCING OF UNIVERSITIES—PLEA FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, Canadian universities have reached the crisis point, and it is up to the Government to decide whether it will contribute to the problem or to the solution. Universities have the capacity to decide whether Canadians will be active participants in the research and development boom or simply passive bystanders.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada recently told the Government that there are not enough Ph.D.s in the very professions which are required to meet present R and D demands, and there are certainly not enough students enrolled in graduate programs to meet future R and D demands. On the one hand the Government has boldly stated that R and D is a priority, yet at the same time it has refused to make education financing an area of priority.

Meanwhile, university enrolments are increasing, due in large part to massive unemployment among youth, created largely by the Government's policies. At Brandon University, for example, student enrolment is higher than it has ever been. Again, the Government is not listening. It is not responding.

There is considerable evidence that universities can fuel the re-entry of women into the workplace. Once again, by refusing to make education financing a priority, the Government is failing to meet the challenge. In effect, universities are pleading with the Government of Canada to answer the challenges of tomorrow. The Government, regretfully, has answered the plea with one word, no.

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AGRICULTURE

FARMERS' NET INCOME

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, many times in the House the Minister of Finance has made statements leading up to his forthcoming Budget, indicating that recovery is upon us. I would like to point out that there are many groups which are not sharing in the so-called recovery. The farmers of Canada are an important group in our country who reached a net income in 1974 which, for the first time, was equivalent to the average industrial wage earner's. In 1974 the net income of farmers was \$3.5 billion. It is interesting to note that in 1983 the net income for farmers was again \$3.5 billion, in spite of inflation, and the cost of living rising more than two and one half times.