

Adjournment Debate

have renewed and expanded the Court Challenges Program and made sure that it will be administered by the Canadian Council on Social Development.

We are now examining new ways to support the development of minorities in co-operation with the provinces, the private sector and volunteer organizations.

[English]

The protocol on official languages in education has been renewed until 1988 with a 3 per cent increase for the first year. This means \$432 million over two years. With regard to Francophones in Ontario receiving French language programming, our Government has made a significant contribution. For 1985-86 we have provided \$1.6 million for French language programming. The Government has also made a commitment to finance half the costs of establishing the French network of TV Ontario. This amounts to \$3 million a year for five years. With regard to services in French in Manitoba, the federal Government will be providing \$400,000 this year to support Manitoba in translating its laws, further to the Supreme Court decision which requires laws to be in both official languages.

• (1835)

Let us look at the Hon. Member's concern regarding Section 23 of the Charter and the question of minority education rights. I want to point out that since the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, some provinces have improved the availability of education in the minority language. The Province of Ontario has dropped the criterion "where numbers warrant" and is proposing the establishment of a minority language school board in Ottawa. The Province of Manitoba is reviewing minority school management.

We are all aware, of course, of the federal Government's support to the Northwest Territories in establishing French as an official language of the territories. Preliminary steps are now being taken to negotiate an agreement on official languages with the Yukon.

[Translation]

In short, Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that the federal Government has been and still is very supportive of the minority official languages communities throughout Canada.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT—TEXTILES—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, today I want to raise a matter pursuant to a question raised in the House on March 12 during Oral Question Period, which was directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle).

The House knows my concern for the survival of the textile industry in Canada, and I am particularly worried about the ability of our industry to cope with international competition. That is why I would like to inform the Minister of my concerns about research in the textile industry.

The textile industry has introduced ultramodern technology which is accessible throughout the world and it has become increasing capital intensive. On the other hand, the clothing industry is more fragmented and more labour-intensive, and several distinctions must be made in the case of the textile industry, since in some sub-groups like hosiery and drapes and curtains, modern technology has not been introduced at the same rate.

We know that at the present time, Canada has no research centres that are really specialized in textiles. I am referring to research aimed at discovering new products and new manufacturing processes.

Of course there are a number of research centres that can help the industry with quality control testing, such as the Ontario Research Foundation and the *Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, the CRIQ*, but these centres do not specialize in textile research. There is also our biggest research centre, the National Research Council of Canada, and I found out that textile manufacturers, or at least those in Quebec, do not make use of its services and are hardly aware it exists.

At the present time, when a textile manufacturer is looking for new ideas, he has to get them from the trade magazines or visit the textile fairs in Europe. The House will agree it is not very practical to have to travel so far to learn something. And it will also recognize that small businesses are always penalized more than others, because they lack the resources to be able to send regularly a person or persons around the world to look for new concepts. We are now seeing the introduction of new technology with the latest computerized equipment for primary manufacturing operations. The application of new technologies, such as robotics, microelectronics or laser technology could transform the industry into one that requires huge investments, which might help it to neutralize the advantages enjoyed by countries with low overhead and to win their share of the market.

In 1982, for instance, Japan earmarked over \$60 million US to fund a new nine-year research and development project to produce a fully automated sewing process. At the same time, the United States launched a similar project to design an automatic machine to sew the sleeves of men's overcoats, one of the most complex and most difficult operations in that sector.

This research program is sponsored by a group of textile and garment manufacturers, the unions involved, and the American Department of Trade. In fact, it is a ten-year \$69 million program being carried out in Boston, in the State of Massachusetts. The results are quite encouraging, and the prototype of a sewing system using mobile sewing machines remotely controlled by cameras and computers has been developed and tested in a plant.

Advanced research has been made to include other sewing operations and to lower the production cost of the prototype. This revolutionary sewing system should be on the market within three years.