

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN*Government Orders*

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, if question No. 206 could be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 206 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[Text]

FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Question No. 206—**Mr. Saint-Julien:**

In fiscal year (a) 1979–80 (b) 1980–81 (c) 1981–82 (d) 1982–83 (e) 1983–84, were fees paid to notaries and legal agents acting on behalf of the Federal Business Development Bank and, if so (i) what are the names of the recipients (ii) what were their dates of appointment (iii) what fees were paid to them?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Manley:

That this House condemn the government for its failure to support the National Research Council as Canada's premier research institution and its failure to promote basic scientific research in Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member had six minutes remaining in her speech plus ten minutes for questions and comments.

[Translation]

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, I shall continue. The NRC has substantially increased its revenues, from \$12.5 million in 1984–85 to \$22.1 million in 1989–90.

This increase in revenue reflects an increasingly widespread perception of the usefulness and value of the NRC's services and helps guarantee that NRC programs are relevant to the needs of its clients.

I think it is becoming increasingly attractive for NRC laboratories to be active in research consortiums and other research activities involving several partners.

Participation in several collaborative ventures as set forth in the federal policy on technology centres has helped the NRC to enhance its image and obtain substantial bonuses.

The NRC has also entered into a number of scientific and technological agreements with partners in universities, government and industry. Since 1985, it has signed 40 memoranda of agreement with other government departments and agencies, industrial associations and Canadian and foreign research agencies.

Furthermore, the NRC will be associated as a partner with 10 of the 14 networks of centres of excellence financed by this government, as I mentioned earlier.

Mr. Speaker, now that we are entering the 1990's, Canadian industry must be able to contribute to the latest technological developments and incorporate them in its products, if it is to remain competitive at the highest levels on international markets. We must act now. If we hesitate and are left behind by our competitors, we can kiss our very comfortable standard of living good-bye.

The federal government is committed to deploying all available resources to support this national priority, and the NRC is one of the most powerful and effective resources it has today. The key to success, however, is to refine the priorities of the NRC.

The NRC must play a critical role that very few other Canadian institutions would be able to play. It must serve as a catalyst in the development of profitable co-operation between all the players involved in research and development in this country, namely the provinces, the industrial corporations and the universities. It must