

nize that universities now exist and are the main thrust for basic scientific work in this country. The National Research Council will do what is required in terms of basic research so that it can fulfil its general mandate to support science and technology in this country.

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): I hope the minister has heard about the transfer cuts.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, in the same letter, Dr. Perron, president of the NRC, proposes a policy and strategy for privatization of the National Research Council. Is the government prepared to let the National Research Council be privatized?

[English]

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, the National Research Council of Canada is not going to be privatized.

I think what may hurt my colleague so much is that the National Research Council of Canada is prepared to sell some of its services to industry if industry wants to buy it. That seems to me to be a good deal.

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, if that is the policy of the government, I suggest that the minister head the president of the NRC off at the pass when he is writing letters that say he is proposing a policy of privatization.

As recently as the budget last month, the government cut science and technology spending by \$39 million and cut transfer payments for post-secondary education by over \$2 billion. Canadians are left wondering what has happened to the Prime Minister's promise of increasing Canada's R and D spending to 2.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product?

Does the government still intend to fulfil the Prime Minister's promise to increase R and D spending to 2.5 per cent and, if so, can the government explain how it intends to increase R and D performance while cutting spending?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows as well as anyone in this House that if we are going to increase R and D total spending in this country, industry must pick up a fair part

of it. Let me remind the hon. member that in 1980, the government of the day was spending, excluding debt payments, 4.65 per cent of total program spending on science and technology. That government let that run down to 4.46 per cent. This government brought it back up to 4.89 per cent, the highest it has been in 10 years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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• (1420)

LITHUANIA

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and pertains to the historical events happening in Lithuania.

It is clear that the situation in the Baltic States is very different, indeed very unique from that of the other republics in the Soviet Union. Successive governments have refused to recognize the illegal annexation of those states.

Will the minister bring a long-standing policy of non-recognition to its logical conclusion by supporting an all-party resolution that recognizes Lithuania as a fully independent, sovereign republic? I can tell the minister that I have had discussions with the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona and he, on behalf of his party, would be willing to support such a resolution.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to look at the resolution that was proposed by the hon. member and the member for Winnipeg Transcona. Certainly, that would be a resolution that would be acceptable to me and to members of the government.

We join with the hon. member in recognizing as historic the democratic decision that has been taken by the people of Lithuania, and now by their Parliament. The position of the Government of Canada, as he has correctly said, has been to recognize the political sovereignty of Lithuania.

We now enter into a very important phase in which there will be a discussion as to how the *de facto* occupation by the Soviet Union will come to an end.