

consideration of private members' business. However, by unanimous consent the House may agree not to see the clock so that we can complete proceedings under statements by ministers. If hon. members feel we can complete the business in a short time, we could come back to private members' business following that. I will invite the parliamentary secretary to move a motion reflecting whatever agreement has been reached. Is that agreed?

● (1702)

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would like to state clearly that consideration of Bill C-58 will have to end at six o'clock and that by that time the bill must have gone through all stages so that at eight o'clock tonight we can proceed to consideration of Bill C-56 as previously agreed.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The parliamentary secretary requests the Chair to put his proposal before the House. This means that we would not see the clock but complete the proceedings under statements by ministers, following which we would forgo private members' business and proceed directly to Bill C-58, on the understanding that all stages of the bill will be completed by six o'clock.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that represents the agreement amongst us. I think that part of the agreement is that if precisely at six o'clock we have not finished because we have lost more time, we will not see the clock, any more than we have seen it at five o'clock.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is certainly agreeable Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is agreed and so ordered.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the statement by the minister a little while ago, and the announcement by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) earlier today during the question period that the amount of money to be allocated for medical research has been increased by 11 per cent rather than the 5.5 per cent indicated in the estimates, demonstrate that even this government listens to representations if they are made loud enough and often enough, and when an election is coming up.

I must admit that again I was amazed by the statement made by the minister because he succeeded in doing something I did not think he could do. He succeeded in making a statement which sounded very good but which, when the fine print was looked at, proved again that the government really does not understand the needs with regard to scientific research. The reason it sounded very well was obviously that

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the minister's speech writers have read documents such as the May issue of the bulletin published by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, which concentrates on the problems of scientific research, and the resolution passed by the 1977 convention of the NDP which went into detail about scientific research and what needed doing. That was in the general things they said, but when it comes to doing things, we find that the minister and the government propose to do very little more than they have already done.

The minister states that the government's target for the next five years is to raise the percentage of the gross domestic product from the present less than 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent expenditure on scientific research by 1983. The fact is that at present countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, and the Netherlands are already spending 2 per cent or more of their g.n.p. on scientific research. So the minister is proposing that five years from now we will still be spending less of our g.n.p. than those countries are already spending.

I point out to the minister that our 1977 convention stated as follows:

Increased financial support for basic and applied research and development to a level of at least 2.5 per cent of the g.n.p. within three years.

That is 1 per cent more than the minister is proposing, and in three years rather than five.

Mr. Buchanan: That is impractical.

Mr. Orlikow: That is what I expected from the minister. The government proposes more tax incentives, increased assistance to direct assistance programs, extension of the contracting out policy, and transfer from government laboratories to industry of technology. All of these have been tried before and they have obviously failed to meet the needs of this country for increased emphasis on scientific research.

The government proposes to increase funding for university research, but the amount indicated in the background papers of \$20 million is so small that I consider it to be an insult to the university scientists of this country.

The government proposes the creation of industrial research and innovation centres, financial support for employment of scientific research personnel, and a number of other proposals, all which are small steps in the right direction, which we support. But the proposals to encourage greater private sector spending on research and development through increased tax incentives have been complete failures. Those failures go at least as far back as when scientific research came under the jurisdiction of the former member for Westmount, Mr. Drury, and I think even this minister knows how the scientific community assesses that minister's regime with regard to scientific research.

Between 1968-69 and 1975-76, research and development expenditures fell from 5 per cent of federal expenditures to less than half of that, to 2.4 per cent of federal expenditures. By 1976 actual government expenditures on research and development had fallen to less than .5 per cent of the g.n.p. Just