

*Supply*

aware of the *bacillus thuringiensis* discovery and the steps taken by Dr. Smirnoff to have his assistant take over research on the budworm, I would like to pass on some information which he omitted to give in the course of his speech.

First of all, research in this area has not been abandoned. It is continuing, especially in the Chute-à-Galets centre located in the Parc des Laurentides between Quebec and Chicoutimi—actually closer to Chicoutimi.

I may also point out to my hon. colleague that today, the researchers who work at the Laurentian Forest Research Centre, in my riding, are moving to new quarters. They are right in the middle of moving day, so to speak, and cannot be ready to work right away. They are closing their old offices and moving to new premises that are not quite finished yet.

They do not intend to abandon their research in this particular area.

They are also pursuing another line of research on the budworm, that is, they are trying to make certain evergreen species more resistant to the budworm.

I think my hon. colleague is mistaken and has omitted to pass on this particular information, and I therefore welcome this opportunity to set the record straight, since this happens to be a subject I know very well.

[English]

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the interjection of the Hon. Member. I have in my possession a chart which outlines the complete reorganization made by the present Government as it relates to insect behaviour, insect control, pesticide evaluation, registration, pesticide technology and all research work done in Canada.

● (1520)

To put it in the words of the Canadian Forestry Service, there has been a reorientation of that particular work. As described by Dr. Smirnoff, who is known throughout the world, the reorientation as a whole tends to suppress research into the successful use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* for the operational control of the spruce budworm conducted in the Laurentian Forest Research Centre. He says that this is quite unbelievable considering that the insect pathology unit of the centre is the only unit in Canada and even in North America to have an international reputation in the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against the spruce budworm. He says that this is a blind decision and, as the former Minister of the Environment asked me to point out, this letter is under the signature of Dr. Smirnoff. I did not receive his permission to read that letter, and perhaps I should have before I did.

Government representatives should be down on their knees pleading with Dr. Smirnoff not to leave the Laurentian Forest Research Centre since he is the only thing they have going for them internationally. He is the only man who ever discovered a non-chemical insecticide to fight forest insects. What did they do instead? I have the letter here proving it. They turned him

down. They told him that he could not have an extension. They said that that work was terminating in that centre.

I am glad to hear the Hon. Member say that some work is still continuing in that centre. However, the work that is continuing is certainly not as complete without the services of Dr. Smirnoff. I do hope that the Government will see the light and pay attention to the international journals which print his articles and speak about him and I hope they will try to get that man back working for the Canadian Government.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fontaine:** Mr. Speaker, I simply want to make a comment about the intervention of the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker).

If, instead of allocating substantial amounts to pure research and very sophisticated laboratories and spending so much money on large research buildings, for which we must now pay maintenance costs even though they are empty, the previous Government had allowed co-operation between private business and the research sector, we would not be faced with these problems today.

We now have to bear the consequences of your mismanagement when you were in power.

[English]

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, that sounded as though it could have come from the mouth of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) or the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). I congratulate the Hon. Member for actually being able to copy what those people say on a daily basis.

The hon. gentleman said that the former Liberal Government wasted money constructing research buildings and carrying on research when it could have had the private sector conduct that research in co-operation with the Government. He says that the Government would not have had to waste money paying all those salaries and buying all those test tubes. He is saying that that was not necessary. He is saying that we could have built tents but not buildings and that we did not need the person-years. He claims that if we had not over-spent on research, we would not be in the bind we are in today.

I presume the Hon. Member is talking about the almighty deficit of the Government of Canada. If the previous Liberal Government spent too much money on research, then my goodness gracious, he must really have a case in every other area contained in *The Oxford Dictionary*.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cadieux):** Questions or comments? The Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis).

**Mrs. Duplessis:** Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) did not understand what my colleague was saying. He said that you mispent the money allocated to research.