

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**An hon. Member:** The reply will be interesting.

**Mr. Stanfield:** May I ask the minister whether one of the fundamental reasons for the difficulty being faced by these engineering and science graduates is that research and development units developed by private industry have practically levelled off during the last three years under the present administration? Is the difficulty of these graduates not substantially due to the stagnation of research and development in this country—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Stanfield:**—in private industry? Has the minister any plans—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question of the Leader of the Opposition, it seems to me, is in the form of an argument. I doubt whether it is in order.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether he has any plans to encourage and stimulate the development of research and development units in the private sector in view of the difficulty that has been indicated?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The minister will be allowed to reply briefly to the Leader of the Opposition who asked him to indicate if he has any plans. If the minister has plans, I think that normally they should be announced or elaborated upon by way of a statement on motions.

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Revenue with regard to the study he is now undertaking for the government with respect to foreign ownership. Will his study deal with the suppressive effect of branch plant operations in Canada on the research and development sector of our economy? Also, will the minister have suggestions to offer in that report for beefing up the research and development sector of the economy?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, this is one of the elements that has been looked at.

**Mr. Rowland:** I wish to direct a further supplementary to the Minister of Supply and Services. Will the minister be looking into the suggestion contained in the science council background report that government contracts and other purchasing agreements might more commonly include provisions for research and development expenditures as a means of obtaining improved supplies and services for the government?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services):** I will be looking at the report, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question. I wish to ask the President of the Treasury Board whether he has any

[Mr. Speaker.]

programs to encourage research and development. If so, will he take the earliest opportunity to inform the House about them?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I think the House is aware that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has a number of programs in the science and engineering field. It is in the process of revising them to make them more effective than they have been over the past year.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A further supplementary. I wish to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce when he will be able to inform the House as to the measures he proposes his department and the government should take to encourage research and development?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman had had the privilege of taking part in the discussion of our estimates going on now in committee, he would have heard a full report on the amount of research and development support to industry which is given by my department. He would know that we are constantly revising our programs to make them more effective. He would also know that we have made some major changes for example in our DIP program to make it more civilian-oriented than in the past and that we have made many changes in the PAIT program to convert to grants what used to be offered as loans.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that very soon we ought to go on to another subject, but for the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Joliette.

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[Translation]

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

FRANCOPHONE HIRING PROGRAM—  
NUMBER ALREADY EMPLOYED

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Joliette wish to put a supplementary question?

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

With reference to the policy of hiring 250 francophones, I should like to ask the minister whether he can say if he has started hiring these francophone university graduates, and how long it will be before these 250 francophones are recruited?

**Mr. Speaker:** I dare suggest to the hon. member that his question is not directly related to the one asked by the Leader of the Opposition, but since the question has been put, it may be simpler to let the minister answer it.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to try to get this information and relay it to the hon. member.