

Oral Questions

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE ACTION OF MINISTER

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): My supplementary is for the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Again I ask the Minister, given that under Section 96.1 it is clearly illegal for employers to hire illegal immigrants and subject to a possible \$5,000 fine or two years in prison, is the Minister prepared to exercise some understanding and compassion for the nanny and permit her to stay? If the Department is not prepared, why is the law not being applied equally and forcefully against the employer who contravened the same Immigration Act? Why the double standard?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, there is a hearing going on. My sister and brother-in-law are perfectly capable of explaining for themselves what the situation was and continues to be, and I will continue to leave it up to them.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RATE OF R AND D EXPENDITURES

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Several years ago the Prime Minister promised that the rate of expenditure for research and development in Canada would be doubled from 1.3 per cent to 2.5 per cent of GNP. Last year he promised \$1.3 billion for science which seems to have disappeared some place. The fact is that real expenditures by the Government on R and D in this country have not increased but, in fact, have decreased.

With respect to the choice made between Ottawa, Montreal and St. Hubert for the location of the space agency, will the Minister table the cost estimates for the different locations and an estimate of the number of scientists that will be lost to this country on account of this move?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, let me first inform my honourable colleague that the \$1.3 billion is intact and is still there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winegard: With respect to the space agency, whether that agency is in Montreal City or in St. Hubert, whenever you move something you are bound to lose a few good people and one regrets that. But the people of St. Hubert are putting on a massive campaign to welcome all those people in the space agency who are going to move to St. Hubert. The two English-speaking univer-

sities in Montreal, Concordia and McGill, have said they are prepared to do anything they can to help the scientists who move with the space agency to the Montreal region. What we have to stop is the squabbling and get on with this exciting development about a Canadian space agency.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I am sure with all that sound and fury signifying nothing, you did not miss that the question was not answered. It is clear that with the attempt by the Government to restrict expenditures on R and D in order to attack the deficit, that there is no rationality in squandering money for already short-changed R and D.

Mr. Valcourt: Forget your speech and ask your question.

COST OF LOCATING AGENCY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is simply this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCurdy: Will the Minister table in this House an estimate of the relative costs for the establishment, the moving of personnel and the additional operational costs which certainly do exist as differences among the three alternatives of St. Hubert, Montreal and Ottawa? Will the Minister do that?

Mr. Blais: Are you opposed?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, I find this really quite unusual. We had just a few months ago the Leader of the New Democratic Party saying his Party wanted the space agency in the greater region of Montreal. Now, for some reason, the New Democrats seem to have changed their minds. Perhaps the NDP Member would like to explain to the people of Montreal why they don't want it there. As I have said before, in terms of funding, all of that money is there and all of that money stayed there through the Budget.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INTEREST RATES FOR CREDIT CARDS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations concerning interest rates on credit cards. He will know that a couple of years ago the Finance Committee conducted a very exhaustive investigation into this matter and rates were voluntarily lowered at