

are programmed in the very early part of their lives determines what kind of people they are going to be throughout their lifetime. Yet this government is more concerned with day care centres than with the provision of circumstances where the scientifically proven requirements of mother love and maternal instinct are the main concern.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. MacLean: Certainly.

Mr. Drury: I am not sure what *Hansard* got in relation to the uterine process—"inter" or "intra". I hope the hon. member meant "intra".

Mr. MacLean: That is what I said, I think.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am happy for the opportunity to participate in debate on the motion proposed by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre). The topic of his motion is timely, and we welcome the opportunity to debate it. He said that this is the first time in the history of the House of Commons that we have debated this subject on an opposition day. My response to him is that, considering the opposition has available 25 days each session on which to debate any topic it wants, its failure to bring forward this topic must be laid down to negligence. After the excellent quality of today's debate I look forward to their bringing in a similar motion in future, because debate on this subject gives government supporters the opportunity to extol the virtues of the government's science and technology program.

An hon. Member: Everything is perfect.

Mr. Foster: Oh, no. An hon. member opposite says everything is perfect. One would be naive to suggest that in a field as broad as science and technology, a field broader than man's imagination, everything can be perfect.

We are fortunate in having as minister responsible for science and technology a man of the calibre of the present minister. The science and technology portfolio has only been established for three or four years. Previously, the present minister was responsible for the science and technology program of the government. As I say, we are fortunate indeed in having such an interested, concerned and determined individual guide us at the federal level. His efforts, together with the efforts of the various departments involved in science and technology, are important to Canada.

Science and Technology

Hon. members opposite seemed to argue that we should spend more on science and technology or get more for our money. I took the trouble of looking up the actual figures, to learn what has been spent in the last three years, including the present fiscal year. I noted that total expenditures on science and technology have increased significantly, by some \$300 million. Expenditures in the 1973-74 fiscal year were at \$1.41 billion; in the 1974-75 fiscal year they were at \$1.266 billion, and for this year, 1975-76, they will be at \$1.443 billion.

The subject of science and technology is broad. I wish to narrow the debate and focus on what has happened in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The department's spending on science and technology in the 1973-74 fiscal year, was 66 million and has increased, significantly, to the 1975-76 level. My figures do not include the estimates of the Atomic Energy Control Board. In 1973-74, the department spent some \$66 million; in 1974-75, it spent \$69 million, and in the 1975-76 period, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will have spent \$85 million in this field.

Let me refer to the estimates of the department, particularly to page 5-22 of the blue book of estimates which lists expenditures in connection with the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing. According to the estimates, 94 man-years have been allocated to the program. The operating budget is \$5,202,000, the capital allocated is \$2,555,000, and the total estimated for this year is \$7,757,000. I am sure that item did not catch the imagination or interest of many members of the House; nevertheless, it is important. I want to spend a few minutes talking about it, in order to bring into true focus the motion of the hon. member for Calgary Centre which reads:

That this House deplores the continuing decline in Canada's scientific and technological effort and urges the government to adopt a meaningful science policy that will lead to increased industrial research and development, increased scientific research and increased utilization of Canada's scientists and engineers, thereby contributing to the long-term benefit of both Canadians and the Canadian economy.

● (2010)

Let us look at just one little item. It is a very large amount of money, but in the spectrum of total expenditures of science and technology it is not a very large percentage. I wish to talk for just a few minutes about our national remote sensing program. I would like to describe to the House a program that has been active for about three and a half years. While it is managed by a new branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, it is interdepartmental and national in scope, serving the provincial governments as well as the municipal governments and industry.

Remote sensing is the process of observing the earth from satellites or aircraft using special sensors, which operate at various frequencies ranging from the ultraviolet through the visible and infrared to microwave. They can be active transmitting sensors, such as lasers for detecting oil spills on water and side-look radar for mapping ice through the clouds, or they can be passive receiving instruments, such as infrared line-scanners for mapping the temperature of features on the earth's surface. Certain sensors can identify and map different types of