

*Motions*

eight there is a cultural barrier keeping women from entering these areas. These barriers must be broken down and bridged.

The first major thrust in our innovation program, apart from the space program, is public awareness and culture building. We take that very seriously. As you know, we had a national forum on post-secondary education. We now have councils of Ministers under the new concept of co-operative federalism which are addressing themselves, on a priority basis, to these critical issues. The Hon. Member is quite right that unless we do we shall not be able to respond properly to the challenges and opportunities which exist.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, in October of 1986 the Government announced its intention to create the space agency by legislation. Is it still intended that legislation will be brought forward? When will that legislation come forward? Why have the delays now gone on for some 14 months? Why has the Government undertaken such lengthy delays? Can the Minister tell us where the headquarters of the space agency will be? If not, when will that decision be announced?

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, I assume that the NDP now wants to get into this debate and give me advice on where the agency should be located.

● (1220)

Yes, we have announced that there is a need now as we put more and more of our assets into space and into space programs. Both Opposition Parties agree that this is the proper way to proceed. It will be important for us to develop a central agency to better manage and co-ordinate our activities, not just domestically with the provinces, who have an important role to play, but to manage our international obligations under the treaties we have.

There will be an agency. It will be established with legislation.

The question about when it will be established is asked every day. I can tell the Hon. Member that I was asked that question the day before yesterday, and I was asked yesterday. I can tell him that today I am a day closer than I was yesterday and two days closer than I was two days ago. I cannot tell him when.

As far as the location is concerned, it will be in the place best suited to strengthen our space program. It may well be in Chetwynd, British Columbia, which would be an excellent place, or Montreal, or Ottawa. I can tell the Hon. Member that it will be some place, but it is not the most critical decision we have to make in the next two or three weeks in terms of the space program.

**Mr. Tupper:** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the Minister and the Government have endorsed this very valuable report. The committee made 24 recommendations and, as I recall, the Government accepted 21 or 22 of those recommendations as presented. I believe that is a rather remarkable achievement.

The two committee recommendations which the Government did not accept include the area of space science, on which the Minister commented this morning. The other dealt with another aspect of the space agency.

I want to put a question to the Minister concerning that aspect. There was unanimous advice across the country that the space agency should be established. However, the committee received advice that the space agency, as the administrative body, ought to have research laboratories in its own jurisdiction so that the agency would have at its elbow expert opinion for such things as granting contracts, directing research and so on. That was recommendation No. 13 of the report, which stated that the agency should have under its jurisdiction all of the federal Government laboratories involving space or space science.

The Minister has accepted part of that recommendation in the sense that the agency should have some laboratories under its surveillance, but maintained the caveat that there should be some departmental activity. Would he expand on that recommendation No. 13 and state which labs he would see coming to the agency and which labs he would see staying in the departments? I hope that is not a premature question.

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, that is perhaps one of the reasons why there has been somewhat of a delay in putting the agency in place. As I said earlier, we want to be absolutely sure that the program is properly balanced and co-ordinated.

We want to be sure that the line departments, such as the Department of Communications particularly, and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, will be in a position to continue their critical role in research and development in the areas for which they are responsible and to serve them in the best and most efficient way.

There is no doubt that such research and scientific work that goes on in these departments will have some implication in space. Therefore, the question is whether one transfers it all to the agencies or establishes the agency in a way that helps to co-ordinate the various roles of these departments. We opted for the latter.

Not all of the laboratories and basic research facilities will be transferred to the agency, but it will be strong enough in terms of its capability to play this co-ordinating role, to oversee contracts and develop a strong scientific base on which we launch our major projects.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I have a short comment and question for the Minister. The NDP's position as to whether it should be in Montreal or Ottawa reminds me of the saying, "If you ask some of their friends, they say it should be in Ottawa. If you ask other friends, they say it should be in Montreal". When we asked the Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) where it should be, he said, "With my friends". No one knows exactly where it should be because they have not been very clear on that issue.