

*The Late President Kennedy***THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY**EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH
BY VIOLENCE

gifts or low interest loans. About half of the \$70 million required will be spent in Canada, and normal Export Credit Insurance Corporation financing has been accepted. This selection of the Canadian system by another country is something of which we can all be justly proud.

I might say a word now about the A.E.C.L. program of fundamental research. This work does not often result in newspaper headlines, but we all know how important it is. This type of research gives the scientists and engineers greater understanding and a greater confidence in all their work. Since it is dealing with the frontiers of knowledge it stretches the minds of all those who are engaged in it, and gives the laboratories a pool of talented and qualified people.

Besides nuclear power, the use of radioisotopes is the other principal peaceful application of atomic energy, and is the third main part of A.E.C.L.'s program. A.E.C.L.'s commercial products division markets these radioisotopes for use in agriculture, industry, medicine and research, and also designs and manufactures lines of equipment employing radioisotopes as a main element. The commercial products division now handles over \$4 million worth of business of this kind per year, and nearly 90 per cent of this is in the export market. They compete successfully with their foreign competitors without any subsidy, hidden or otherwise. They operate on a normal commercial basis. Perhaps one of the reasons they are so successful is that they have been plowing back 16 per cent of their earnings into research and development. May I suggest that we deal with the votes when we revert later to consideration and detailed discussion of this particular department.

The next department with which I should like to deal, Mr. Chairman, is the Department of Defence Production. This will take a few minutes, so I suggest it might be convenient to hon. members if we were now to call it one o'clock.

The Chairman: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman: I understand I should now rise, report progress and ask leave to sit later this day. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

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Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I rise, Mr. Speaker, to express, if I may, the feelings of shock and grief felt by all of us at the news of the attack on the life of the President of the United States. I rise also to convey on your behalf and, perhaps I may be permitted to say on this occasion, on behalf of all the people of our country the sense of desolation and dismay which we felt on the receipt of this news, a feeling which we share with the citizens of the United States of America.

I would also like to express our sympathy and convey our prayers to the wives and families of the President and the governor of Texas. I am sure that when the news came over the air our first thought was for them. I was about to add that with this sympathy went our fervent hope and prayers for their recovery, but I have just received a message that President Kennedy died at 2 p.m.

A heartbreaking tragedy has occurred. The world can ill afford at this time in our history to lose a man of his courage, a courage which he displayed both in war and in peace. It can ill afford to lose a man of his wisdom, his determination to advance the cause of freedom in his own country and in the world.

This is a tragedy not only for the President's family and for his people; it is a tragedy for all of us. No people outside the United States will share more deeply in this tragedy than the people of Canada, the neighbour of the United States.

It is difficult for me to say anything more at this time. Our hearts are filled with sadness.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): It is difficult to find words to express the feelings of all who love freedom in this terrible tragedy which has taken place. One thinks of the words of the secretary for war when Lincoln was assassinated; "Now he belongs to the ages". And as Lincoln died endeavouring to bind the wounds that followed the civil war and to assure to those who were negro the right to stand upright as men, whatever history may record of President Kennedy, his stand on behalf of the equality of all men without regard to colour was to me an earnest endeavour to bring about the culmination of the dreams, the idealism and the life work of Lincoln.

It has been the penalty of greatness in the United States that its presidents walk constantly in the valley of the shadow of death. It is worthy of mention that under