

to the government. So, we can consider that the government's involvement in private woodlots is an investment.

For each million dollars invested in private woodlots, between 40 and 50 jobs are created, whereas the national infrastructure program only generated the equivalent of 10 job-years for each million dollars invested.

The Bloc Québécois is asking for a transfer to the provinces of federal funds and related responsibilities, which should better serve the interests of forest producers and workers.

In conclusion, I urge the federal government to put an end to the duplication of services and to give back the powers and the budgets to provinces that were able to get organized and to establish equivalent services that better respond to the people's concerns and needs.

**Mr. Yves Rocheleau (Trois-Rivières, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my colleague and neighbour of the riding of Champlain for the excellent speech he made on agriculture. He raised a point in which I have a particular interest and it is inspection. I have heard about that issue and the situation is worse than what I was told.

I would like to hear his comments, especially on the issue of impartiality that he raised. Are we to understand that inspection costs which were paid for impartially by the government in the public interest will from now on be paid for by producers, thereby placing the inspectors under the control of producers? If so, they will be at the mercy of people acting both as judge and as jury.

Does it mean that the public interest in that area will from now on be threatened by privatization which is expanding and perhaps being implemented drastically?

**Mr. Lefebvre:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and neighbour of Trois-Rivières. There are cases in my riding that I would like to quote as examples. I refer to small packing plants with between 15 and 25 employees. In the past, the costs of monitoring sanitation of premises and wholesomeness of food were paid for by the government. The last Liberal budget imposed that extra monetary burden on small packing plants. I believe that small plants cannot compete with larger plants and this is an inequity in the federal budget.

**Mr. Jean-Guy Chrétien (Frontenac, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I really wanted to take part in this debate because, as you know, my colleague, the hon. member for Champlain, sits on the Standing Committee on Agriculture. In the past, he has always demonstrated a keen interest in agriculture.

• (1210)

However, I would like to hear his comments on the issue of research and development. As he mentioned, unfortunately for

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the province of Quebec, two research stations will be closed, one at L'Assomption and the other at La Pocatière.

I remember the day I was sitting on a committee on agriculture with the hon. Eugene Whelan, as a guest witness. You must have known him very well, since he has made a significant contribution in this area. He used to say to us: "Each dollar we invest in agriculture has a \$7 return."

I would ask the hon. member for Champlain whether he would agree with the hon. Eugene Whelan and, if so, how he can justify the cuts the Liberal government has made in agricultural R & D?

**Mr. Lefebvre:** I want to thank my colleague from Frontenac for his question.

We know that all the farmers in Quebec really need research and development activities.

I have here a research and development federal strategy report. Each year, the federal government invests almost \$6 billion in research and development, not including the tax credits which account for \$1 billion each year. Almost 60 per cent of the federal contribution to research and development, excluding the tax credits, are invested in domestic research done by federal laboratories, which include all the departments. The rest is broken down as follows: industry receives \$977 million; universities, \$960 million; foreign researchers, \$286 million; and others, \$210 million.

On the whole, federal spending in research and development benefits Ontario. In 1990-91, Ontario received 53 per cent of the federal spending, while Quebec got 19.5 per cent. Yet, Quebec's industrial structure does not warrant such small investments by the federal government.

**Mr. Denis Paradis (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that I will be sharing my time with the hon. member for Durham.

I rise today to participate in this debate on the motion of the hon. member for Frontenac which was no doubt prompted by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot. For these two members, agriculture is to Quebec what federalism is for the Bloc. They understand nothing about it, they simply do not believe in it, they are blocked.

The budget was tabled in February and the reaction was good on every front. If we want our country to continue onward and if we want to maintain all the services we are so attached to, we must put our financial house in order. Mr. Martin's budget does just that. It is focused on reduced expenses, not on tax increases. For each additional tax dollar, expenses are reduced by \$7. We are striving for healthier finances by trying first to ensure growth and create jobs. Some very difficult decisions had to be made and this government had the courage to make them. This is what responsible government is all about.