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rather myopic approach to R and D in this country, which is to leave it up to the private sector.

The National Consortium of Scientific and Educational Society has written a very cogent brief. It is entitled "Towards a Coherent Education in Scientific Research Policy for Canada". They are extremely concerned with the direction they see the government has been taking. They have made some very excellent recommendations.

First, they say that even in times of fiscal restraint spending on education and research is an investment. University and research funding must be assured, as well as student aid. If not, Canada will fall far behind its competitors. We have already seen that happening. Canada is losing ground in terms of its placement in the global scientific community.

The report makes four recommendations. One, there should be no further reductions to EPF transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education until First Ministers agree on alternate arrangements to adequately and reliably fund universities. The fact is that cutting back on those EPF transfers, cutting back on that funding to the provinces and regions leaves it to the provinces themselves to take up the slack.

In British Columbia we have a particular problem with that because for many years the provincial government has been using a lot of that funding and quite frankly, putting it into other areas of the economy. That should not be happening but the truth of the matter is that it has which will leave us dreadfully short unless they reorganize some of their priorities.

The second recommendation in the report states that funds of matching grants policy for 1990-91 should be incorporated into the base budgets and that those budgets be doubled. They make the point that the purpose of the matching grants policy which was established in 1986 was to foster university and industrial research collaboration and to increase funds for university research. They argue that the policy has been successful but it terminates in 1991. They are suggesting that that be continued.

The third recommendation is that the government increase investment in research done in federal labs. It should increase the commitment, rather than lay off 500 workers in the National Research Council. Research and

development has to be encouraged and it has to be funded both publicly and privately.

The fourth recommendation is that the federal government should ensure that barriers to higher education be eliminated. The student loans program should be re-evaluated and a national system of grants should be established.

The point they make here is that the current program for student loans is simply not meeting the needs of post-secondary students. The main problem, according to their argument, is that it is in fact a loan and brings about as a result of the loan structure a very heavy student debt load. Some of our students by the time they get out of university are burdened with debts of up to \$20,000. It makes it exceedingly difficult for somebody who does not have the financial ability to do so, to in fact complete an education.

In conclusion, expenditures in post-secondary education, expenditures in scientific research are an essential investment and they have to be looked upon as an investment, not only in our future but in our children's future in Canada. It is absolutely imperative that this funding level be assured so that long-term research projects can continue.

Research does not happen in four-year cycles. When a scientist develops a project and requests funding after doing all the background research necessary to get something up and rolling, he does not look at whether there is an election four years down the line. We need long-term funding that does not pay attention to electoral priorities of a government in power. We need to give our scientific community the reassurance that that funding will be there in future years.

Until they have that reassurance we are going to have a piecemeal approach to research and development in this country that will simply leave us wallowing in the mud as other nations proceed beyond us. We need adequate funding and that funding has to be ensured even during times of fiscal restraint.

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Finally, I submit that the direction taken by this government in passing the buck to the provinces, in passing the buck to the corporate sector, is leading to a false economy, an economy that will jeopardize Canada's future in the scientific market-place.