

development signed last Friday in Montreal by the federal Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and the Quebec Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I found that the people I spoke to in my riding last weekend were delighted with the action taken by this Government. This generous agreement, which provides funding totalling \$1.6 billion over five years, has put an end to a deadlock that existed for several months because the previous Liberal Administration refused to recognize Quebec's full jurisdiction over its economic development. The truly historic moment when the agreement was signed by both governments put an end to an era of confrontation maintained by the previous Liberal Government. The agreement recognizes Quebec's authority over its own development and is a clear demonstration of the spirit of rapprochement and understanding that pervades federal-provincial relations today.

Mr. Speaker, during the last election campaign, our Party made a commitment to develop co-operative federalism, and the present agreement is a very clear example of what we had in mind.

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[English]

#### DISARMAMENT

##### CANADIAN POSITION ON UNITED STATES STAR WARS ARMAMENTS PROPOSAL

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, over the weekend Canadians were treated to some very disturbing statements by two senior Ministers of the Government. First, we had the incredible admission by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) that the Canadian Government is now waffling on its opposition to President Reagan's plan to promote Star Wars weaponry. This is a total reversal of the position taken by previous Canadian governments and recently endorsed by the Minister himself. In fact the Ambassador for Disarmament stated in a recent speech: "Canada's objective at the United Nations is to encourage talks aimed at limiting outer space as an area for military competition . . ."

We have also had the spectacle of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Coates) mocking the many thousands of Canadians who belong to the peace movement. The broad support of this movement across the country is clear, and involves many prominent Canadians, such as 34 recipients of the Order of Canada, former Moderators of the United Church, eight university presidents, and many other distinguished Canadians.

These recent statements clearly show the Government's lack of interest in the peace issue within the international community and within the country. I call upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to clarify the position of his Government immediately on the Star War's issue, and to apologize to all those Canadians who are actively involved in the peace movement.

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#### MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

##### IMPACT OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, the Medical Research Council of Canada may lose approximately \$30 million for research funding in the upcoming year.

Many research foundations and institutes try to provide research operating funds, but a significant portion of their resources is consumed in the provision of research space, care support facilities, and "seed money" for pilot projects. These items are critical to a successful research program but are not funded by any major external funding agency. The scientific community, therefore, looks to external funding agencies for a significant portion of its operating support.

The Medical Research Council of Canada is prominent amongst these funding agencies, and any reductions in its funding capacity will have an immediate drastic impact on established world class research programs. I seek the assurance of the Government that no cut-backs will be implemented in scientific and medical research funding areas.

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#### EXTERNAL AID

##### ETHIOPIA—NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, a delegation of representatives of all three Parties has just returned from Ethiopia. There is solid unanimity across the Parties both as to the impression we had of the famine crisis there and what Canada should be doing about it. The famine is as bad as you ever saw it on television. People are starving to death.

It is important that Canada intervene massively with emergency food aid because the situation will only get worse next year. Farmers are not able to farm, and pastoralists do not have any pasture, so that production is down drastically. At the same time as we are giving emergency food aid, we should not be cutting back on development.

For Ethiopia to become self-sufficient in agriculture, as well as other countries affected by the famine, massive intervention is needed for reforestation, agricultural improvement, and water projects. This is something in which Canada can engage adequately. We have the technological expertise, and we have food riches that we should be giving generously. The United Nations is calling for 1.3 million tonnes of cereal aid. Canada should be coming up with at least 200,000 tonnes as its contribution to a tragic situation in a world in which we are all together.