

whose name escapes me for the moment. You all know the name that I am seeking. We are following the recommendations of those reports and in Cape Breton in particular we want to concentrate more on smaller enterprises and on ideas and suggestions that come from within the region, rather than from without.

So, mistakes have been made and—Oh, give me a chance, I haven't been here for three or four days.

Mr. McCurdy: It certainly shows.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister may be able to jog his memory while we listen to the supplementary.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Science and Technology.

The Porter report also criticizes the government for its research and development policy. Now we hear that the government is about to kill Canada's participation in the international fusion project.

My question is this: Given the great potential of this project to produce long-term environmentally sustainable energy, and given that Canada could be a likely site to receive \$1.5 billion in benefits by virtue of the establishment here of the thermonuclear plant, does cutting this \$13 million really make sense, I ask you, when we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on TRIUMF-KEAON and hundreds of millions of dollars on a space project that will not produce nearly the benefits that this could potentially produce for Canada and the world?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the hon. member asked the question, and especially for his interest in fusion and the nuclear industry and his strong support for that industry.

I am pleased that the party has had a change of view since the questions were received yesterday. I simply say to the hon. member that the Minister of State for Research and Development and Treasury Board are looking at this project and Canadian involvement in it. I

thank him for his support and I am glad also that he is going to make these representations to his party and his leader.

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• (1140)

CANADA POST

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Madam Speaker, the president of Canada Post was appointed by Privy Council Order 435, of which I have a copy, in 1986, for five years up to this year, at a salary "within the range \$165,000 to \$205,000". That expired on February 17 of this year and in March of this year, a month later, the Privy Council listed his new salary range from \$248,000 to \$310,000, not counting his bonus.

Does the minister not find this a little difficult to digest, awarding a 50 per cent salary increase to the president of Canada Post so quickly, so quietly, and telling the rest of Canadians to accept zero per cent and tighten their belts?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, when Don Lander took over as president of Canada Post the taxpayers of Canada were contributing by way of subsidy hundreds of millions of dollars, \$500 million a year.

In the last two years under Don Lander's presidency, Canada Post has returned to the taxpayers, to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, almost \$200 million by way of dividends.

I understand that the hon. member does not think that a man with that kind of accomplishment should get paid as much as some third string second baseman, but frankly the taxpayers of Canada have got terrific value for the money we have paid Don Lander in salary. We as trustees of the taxpayers of Canada should be applauding him and wishing that the other leaders in our economy were as productive as him.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Madam Speaker, this government has closed post offices, replaced postmasters and postmistresses with outdoor boxes that freeze up in the winter time and in the interest of profit has destroyed our postal service in many ways.