

Oral Questions

tax shelters, while out of the other side they say we should be recreating them.

The Prime Minister just announced in January \$1.3 billion of additional spending on science and technology.

Mr. Foster: That is recycled.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member says that it recycled. That is not recycled, Mr. Speaker. It is new money to be spent on research and development. We have a good record here in direct spending by the Government of Canada where \$4.2 billion, plus the \$1.3 billion, is being spent. In addition to that there is a fine tax treatment for research and development.

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● (1450)

INVESTMENT CANADA**LAPP INDUSTRIES—COMMITMENT TO GOVERNMENT—
ESTABLISHMENT OF INQUIRY**

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Investment Canada. The Government supported Lapp Industries purchase of Canadian Porcelain Industries in 1985 over a workers' co-op. The Minister knows that company has not met its commitment to the Government. He said the Government will establish an inquiry into the whole business of the company not meeting its commitment, closing the plant and leaving people without work. I would like to know when the investigation is going to take place and when he will report to the House.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member said, I asked for an inquiry into this matter. It concerns me very much. The inquiry is under way and I expect to have the results very soon. It is very difficult at the moment to give the Hon. Member a specific date, but I can assure her that the review by Investment Canada is under way at my request and should be completed in a very short time.

ASKING PRICE FOR PLANT

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, "a very short time" is very innocuous. I would like the Minister to tell the House if he looked at the outrageous price of \$11 million that Lapp asked for the plant, which means the plant will not be operating, and has he included this in his investigation?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member says "a very short time" is a very innocuous answer. As I indicated very

clearly, the review is under way. I told my officials in Investment Canada that I wanted the report as soon as possible. They assured me I would get it in the very near future, and I will be very happy to report to the Hon. Member and this House as soon as I do.

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INDUSTRY**GOODYEAR CANADA—USE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY**

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and concerns the continuing reports of discussions between Goodyear Canada and the federal Government about financial assistance for a new tire plant in Napanee.

Given the fact Goodyear just got a remission order from the Government worth up to \$50 million over four years, and a \$32 million interest-free loan from the Ontario Government, and then got instructions from head office in the U.S. to send an additional \$25 million to \$30 million a year to the American parent, will the Minister confirm that not a single cent more of Canadian taxpayers' money will be paid to Goodyear Canada?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the Government has been working very closely with the tire industry since 1986 to encourage it to restructure and modernize. Duty remission obviously is available to all tire companies in Canada that are taking steps to meet the objective the Government set. Goodyear is planning to restructure its operations in Canada and that would make it eligible for duty remission if it does the restructuring.

I recognize that it is unfortunate that some people may remain unemployed as a result of the Lakeshore plant closure. I believe there are some 40 people involved. However, on the other hand the new plant investment which Goodyear is contemplating involves the creation of 800 new jobs. It is in that spirit that we are trying to help the industry and Canada, and create new jobs.

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AGRICULTURE**DROUGHT IN WESTERN CANADA—USE OF SOIL CONSERVATION
FUNDS**

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He knows the drought situation in western Canada is worsening every day with topsoil blowing away and dug-outs dry which have never been