

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, let us be very clear about what is being proposed by the New Democratic Party. The New Democratic Party is not saying that a legal case has failed to be made by Canada. The NDP knows that the legal case was made by Canada. The NDP is saying that that legal case should have been made by the Prime Minister, not because of his legal skills but because of his political skills—

**Mr. Deans:** Just because he is Prime Minister.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):**—as the Member for Kamloops—Shuswap has just said. The Member is asking the Prime Minister of Canada to ask the President of the United States to do something which the President of the United States is prohibited by American law from doing. That would be improper. It would backfire on Canadians, and the first people to suffer would be the lumber workers of this country.

\* \* \*

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. In a press release issued by the Minister he stated:

I want to put Canadian science and technology and Canadian research and development back on track.

How does the Minister intend to move toward a permanent framework for science and technology further to assist the country out of its current industrial crisis, and what is the time frame?

● (1150)

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, a number of initiatives have been taken by the federal Government, including two federal-provincial ministerial conferences and a number of round table discussions with the science community throughout the country. All of this will culminate in a national forum on science and technology this coming week in Winnipeg in which all the stakeholders will participate. I am hopeful that by the end of this year we will have something to lay before the House.

**Mr. Berger:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

## VIEWS OF RESEARCHERS

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister answer the concerns of researchers as expressed in an article in today's papers, and on many other occasions, who are skeptical of the Government's plan for matching grants? Indeed, some of them say that the Government will be blaming

industry and universities for a scheme which was doomed from the beginning. How does he answer those criticisms?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, unlike the Hon. Member I happen to have great faith in the private sector. Everyone knows the private sector has to play a more prominent and significant role in putting the country in a position to build its future economic strength on research and development. I just happen to have more faith in the private sector than he does.

\* \* \*

## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

## CANADIAN COMMITMENT

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, during the last election campaign the Conservative Party promised a 6 per cent real increase in the national defence budget, but that has simply become another broken Tory promise. Can the Minister of National Defence tell us what our NATO allies' response was at the recent ministerial meeting in Brussels to the fact that he has not even come close to meeting the longtime NATO agreement of a 3 per cent real increase per year? According to the last Budget brought in by the Minister of Finance, he will fail to honour Canada's financial commitment to NATO for the total life of this Parliament.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** The short answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is that the force goals presented by Canada were accepted by all of our NATO allies.

## POSITION OF ALLIED NATIONS

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, Canada's national defence budget grew by more than 3 per cent in every year of Liberal budgeting following the 1979 commitment. The Government has not met that yet and it does not intend to.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What about before that?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Did our NATO allies request assurances that Canada will get back on track and adhere to the—

**Mr. McDermid:** What about from 1968 to 1979?

**Mr. Hopkins:**—3 per cent real growth commitment? What did he tell them other than the fact that the Minister of Finance's Budget projects this Government's total failure to come even close to meeting the 3 per cent target during the entire period of this Parliament? You have failed entirely to meet it.