

Adjournment Debate

differences that presently exist before we get down to negotiating the final agreement.

With regard to the Saskatchewan formula, I would suggest to the hon. member that he not reply on news reports that I said this was too rich. What I asked the ministers at that meeting was whether the Saskatchewan formula was acceptable to them. I would suggest to the hon. member that he rely on what is said in this House rather than on news reports.

● (2220)

In order to clarify quite clearly, Mr. Speaker, beyond the answers that I gave today to the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) regarding the Saskatchewan formula, I want to tell the member that I have responded in telex form to the president of the FSI. I just want to read one section of that into the record and possibly this will clarify the situation. In part it reads:

The discussion which I had with provincial ministers on Monday, November 26, was a general and broad ranging one, related to various matters concerning Indian people in the provinces which were represented. As part of our discussion, I wanted to hear the views of each provincial minister. In this context, I asked the provincial ministers affected (those of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) about their approach to the fulfilment of outstanding treaty land entitlement claims. Since each of these governments has placed different interpretations on their obligation to provide land for treaty entitlement purposes under the natural resources transfer agreements, I noted that the outcome of such different approaches would be widely differing settlements among the three provinces. Since it is my responsibility to ensure that the interests of the Indian people across Canada are taken into account fairly and equitably, I was bringing to the attention of those present the concern that I have that the Saskatchewan formula, if it is not applied in Manitoba and Alberta, would create disparities which would affect the Indian people in the latter two provinces.

I want to tell the member, and as I have indicated in the House earlier today as well, that the Saskatchewan formula is in place. I know that the agreements are in place and I want to see early movement on the land entitlements.

The Saskatchewan government, obviously in view of the 1930 transfer agreement, has to provide the majority of the land.

[Translation]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT—INQUIRY WHETHER GRANTS WILL BE INCREASED

Mr. Armand Caouette (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, as I said on November 19 last to the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Grafftey), statistics show that from 1976 to 1978 the federal government earmarked \$392.8 million for university scientific research in Ontario as against \$190 million for the same period in Quebec.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the minister that Quebec has been at a great disadvantage when it comes to the distribution of the federal research centres. I feel therefore, Mr. Speaker, that the government should review its whole scientific research policy to restore more equity among the provinces and increase substantially the budgets with a view to making scientific research play an effective role. Mr. Speaker, Quebec received \$94 million from 1976 to 1977. For

[Mr. Epp.]

the same year Ontario was given \$203.7 million, but fortunately that situation was reviewed in 1978 and Quebec got \$96.4 million which represents a small increase in comparison with the \$189.1 million granted to Ontario.

● (2225)

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, never has the government in the past made scientific research one of its priorities. Significant budget cuts have been imposed in this area in the past, and what is more serious is the lack of long-term planning in awarding grants. The lack of long-term funding is creating an impossible situation for researchers and causing the brain drain which benefits other countries at the expense of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote Dr. Herzberg, the 1971 winner of the Nobel prize for chemistry and a member of the National Research Council of Canada, who blamed the federal government for depriving the National Research Council of all authority over last year's grants:

The time and money which the government is wasting on commissions appointed to look into the problems in scientific research could be better employed encouraging research.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of resentment in the world of medical research. Moved by a feeling of frustration because of the government's indifference, researchers could change professions or leave Canada unless federal authorities remedy the situation, remarked Dr. Hudson, a representative of the University of Ottawa Medical Research Committee.

The same doctor stated, and I quote:

—while the costs of research are increasing by 15 per cent every year, the budget of the MRC is in real value 10 per cent lower than last year.

● (2230)

Then, Mr. Speaker, we realize that only one per cent of the federal budget is spent on research, although that sector is a vital necessity to ensure the economic viability of our society. I know, Mr. Speaker, that the minister said that the government intended to increase the funds allocated to research. But when will they be increased? Will that indexing be based on the gross national product in order to provide a serious basis for research? What does the government intend to do specifically to cope with Quebec's inferiority in that area?

The announcement of the establishment of an engineering institute in Boucherville is a beginning. However, I would like to point out to the minister that a much greater effort than the establishment of an \$18 million research centre will be needed to correct the situation. Can the minister also tell us whether he intends to establish a long-term scientific policy, extending over a three to nine year period, supported by funding commitments for three years and reviewed annually? Furthermore, is he prepared to admit as full members in the federal organizations which have their own budgets representatives selected by the Canadian scientific community?