

## PENSIONS

## HOMEMAKERS' PENSION PROGRAM INQUIRY

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. No mention whatsoever was made in the Speech from the Throne about homemakers' pensions. Will the Minister give his undertaking to the House that homemakers' pensions will be introduced during this term of the present session of Parliament?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that the Prime Minister recently indicated again that the matter of homemakers' pensions is one of the issues that he as Prime Minister would like to bring forward in this session of Parliament.

When the changes were brought about to the Canada Pension Plan, which will come into effect on January 1, 1987, and on which I am pleased to say we have provincial co-operation, the provinces felt that there should be more study on this issue. Thus, one year was set aside for a study. The first meetings took place in July of this year. I think the studies are going forward well. The commitment as made by the Prime Minister in the last few days remains that of the Government.

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[Translation]

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Since July hundreds of small- and medium-sized businesses in Quebec and in the rest of Canada have been unable to proceed with their development projects as a result of the \$60 million cut-back in the National Research Council industrial research assistance program. Does the Minister think that the flowery promises in the Speech from the Throne are a worthwhile substitute for jobs in research and production, or for export sales lost as a result of these cut-backs? Does he think that promises are as valuable as gainful employment?

[English]

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that the Hon. Member has consistently predicted and claimed that there is a \$60 million cut to the IRAP, and I have consistently maintained that there will not be any cuts to that program. It would not matter how often the Minister repeats his assertion, it will not make it true.

**Ms. Copps:** That's right.

**Mr. Axworthy:** We agree with that.

**Mr. Penner:** Would you like to rephrase that?

## Oral Questions

## APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, I wish the Minister would read his mail or meet with the businesses that have been affected by this cut, which is something I did over the course of the summer. He would learn that research and production jobs are being lost at this minute because of this cut.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Berger:** Does the Minister know that the National Research Council has approved projects in principle but cannot proceed with them because of a shortage of funds?

**Mr. Rossi:** He doesn't know anything.

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member received the only promotion that he will ever receive in this House from me in my earlier reply.

**Mr. Ouellet:** We thought you were talking about yourself.

**Mr. Oberle:** The Hon. Member's information is false. It is true that the NRC is undertaking a review of its programs and activities, as are all Departments of Government, in line with the new priorities identified by the Government.

**Mr. Berger:** Are you against jobs?

**Mr. Oberle:** It is true that the IRAP was looked at as a potential source for additional funds. I have asked the NRC to align its programs with the priorities of the Government, as has been its practice in the past. I was told at a meeting that I had with some members of the executive committee as late as yesterday that it would not be necessary to cut the IRAP.

## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S BUDGET

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Science and Technology. Today we learned that the National Research Council is facing another cut in its budget of \$26 million, which is in addition to the \$70 million cut of some time ago. The Council has estimated that it will have to cut its scientific staff complement by 10 per cent. How does the Minister square those kinds of decisions with the statement made by the Prime Minister that both the public and private sectors have to double their efforts in scientific research and development?

• (1450)

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, again it is a hypothetical question. The NRC is reviewing a number of its programs to make sure that the programs that will remain will be consistent with the Government's priorities.

**Mr. Berger:** What are your priorities? You don't know what they are.