

Oral Questions

Expansion. Yesterday Mr. Reisman continued the Government's campaign of misrepresentation on the Auto Pact and the safeguards it contains. Will the Minister publicly confirm that the Auto Pact safeguards do apply on a company-by-company basis and that this has given the Government the leverage to get individual companies to initiate new investments and new jobs here in Canada?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not precisely sure of what Mr. Reisman has said. I would want to check in detail the comments he has made before responding to the Hon. Member's question.

NEGOTIATOR'S MANDATE

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister confirm that despite Mr. Reisman's personal opinions his mandate as negotiator is to fight to maintain those safeguards which everybody on each side of the industry is convinced gets jobs and investments here in Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course we are seeking to create more jobs and to attract more investment into Canada. In fact there have been a couple of billion dollars go right into the riding of the Hon. Member for Oshawa.

Mr. Broadbent: Because of the safeguards?

Mr. Mulroney: No, because of the new climate that has been created. I cannot comment on all of Mr. Reisman's observations. I did not see them all. I did see one in which he said that the Hon. Member from Windsor did not know what he was talking about, and I do not disagree with that.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Yesterday the Opposition was accused by the Minister of creating confusion regarding the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program. Unfortunately, the Minister does not realize that it is his failure to communicate, consult, and provide this House with full information that has created the confusion.

Will the Minister level with this House and admit that there were no consultations and that, if there is confusion, it is because of his failure to state his policies clearly and to advise the House of the full import of his decisions?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the House will have heard me tell

the Hon. Member on several occasions now that he will have access to everything that has been communicated to the National Research Council with respect to this program. It may take the Hon. Member a little longer to comprehend what has happened, but there is certainly no longer any confusion in the NRC, or any place else.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister cancel the cut in the Industrial Research Assistance Program which will deprive some 2,000 small and medium-sized businesses of vital research support? Will he enter into real consultations with the Council, as members of the Council have asked, and as he is obliged to do under the law?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, again I repeat that there have been no cuts to the program to which the Hon. Member makes reference. As has been the practice in the past, parts of the program—and it is 5 per cent of the program this year—will be used for space-related activities. That is a decision which the Government has made in its wisdom. It was communicated in a timely fashion to the people who are managing the program for us.

Mr. Speaker: One question. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will likely be aware that the Minister of State for the Environment for the United Kingdom visited the underground research laboratory in Lac du Bonnet a couple of weeks ago. Can the Minister assure the House that the visit of the British Minister in charge of Britain's nuclear program has nothing to do with things that the Minister has mentioned before about the commercial possibilities of Canada becoming a radioactive garbage dump for the world? Will she tell us why that Minister was visiting that site? Will she reassure us about the Government's intentions with respect to Lac du Bonnet?

● (1200)

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment further on the answers I have already given in the House. We have no intention of allowing—

Mr. Blaikie: Why was the Minister there?

Miss Carney: We have no intention of allowing the riding of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to become a