

The studies point out the unique value of the port as Canada's only Arctic seaport with a rail connection to the south. However, the Government has moved recently to lay off the permanent staff at the port and to shut down the facility completely during the winter for the first time in three decades. This was done in the full knowledge of these studies which were kept hidden.

It is time for the Government to stop pretending Churchill is not viable and to offer this unique resource the support it deserves. It is no wonder that Conservative MLAs from Brandon are suggesting that provincial Tories need a new name.

\* \* \*

### PENITENTIARIES

#### OPENING OF PRISON IN RENOUS, N.B.

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, according to the November issue of *Atlantic Insight*, the new maximum security prison in Renous, New Brunswick, is about to open. According to the magazine, it was built as a result of a 1980 election promise made by the former Liberal Government.

The prison was built despite the fact that experts said it was not needed and that it could be built elsewhere for \$10 million less. It was built despite its isolated location, and despite opposition from the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Salvation Army, and the Criminal Justice Association.

According to the former Member of Parliament for the riding in which it was located, the prison was built because:

"It is the Government of Canada . . . My job was to get what I could for this riding and I have a very firm belief that the free citizens of this country have more rights than prisoners do."

Does that all sound familiar, Mr. Speaker?

\* \* \*

### NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

#### REVIEW OF PROGRAM CUTS

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) has announced that he will be appointing a committee to review the cuts at the National Research Council, cuts which he himself told the Council to make. Now he is telling council members that he does not like or trust their judgment. This begs the question: why is the Minister questioning the judgment of council members whom he himself has undermined by making ill-advised demands? Why does he not just back off, go back to square one and cancel the cuts?

The Minister has also said that he is dismayed to learn that council members are sitting beyond their term. I think he

*S.O. 21*

should be grateful that these people are willing to serve Canadians. Why did the Minister not learn of this before? Did he expect the Council to shut down its operations and wait for him to wake up and name replacements? I would hope that members of the Government, and the Minister, would start reading the correspondence that they are receiving from Canadians and that these harmful cuts are reversed in the shortest time.

\* \* \*

● (1115)

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### NICARAGUA—CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) questioned the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) about the Government's inconsistency in voting in the UN to condemn U.S. support for Contra terrorism in Nicaragua while at the same time providing aid to Honduras and El Salvador where Contra bases are located. The Prime Minister answered that our alliances and friendships are not in doubt.

We believe that the Prime Minister's refusal to meet Vice-President Ramirez does cast considerable doubt on where this country stands and its degree of independence. That is also true of the Nicaraguan Government, which has recalled its ambassador because of the snub that country's Vice-President received from our Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister wants to show his Government's independence of policy and principle, it should extend an invitation to the Vice-President of Nicaragua.

\* \* \*

### NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

#### APPOINTMENT OF TASK FORCE TO REVIEW PROGRAMS

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks considerable concern has been expressed in this House and throughout the country with respect to program cuts at the National Research Council. The facts surrounding these cuts have been seriously distorted, and the rationale for some of them is weak, at best.

The Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) will announce today the formation of a three-person task group to undertake consultations on behalf of the Government with the President and members of the National Research Council in respect of programs, management, and budgetary considerations at the NRC. My colleagues and I in the Conservative Party strongly applaud this initiative. Our lobbying efforts and our strong voices have been heard again as responsible recognition that the intellectual wealth and