

Oral Questions

Mr. Oberle: Yes, you did.

Mr. McCurdy: Give me the proof. My next question is for the same minister.

In view of the yet undenied cutbacks in the national Centres of Excellence funding and in view of the projected cutbacks in NRC and the crisis that precipitates, are we to understand it is now government policy as suggested in its prosperity initiative report to de-emphasize research and development—and I am not so sure the minister knows what that is—in favour of the begging, borrowing and stealing of technology from elsewhere?

Most people, most scientists he may eventually meet, would see it as a prescription for the destruction of our capability to advance in technology or anywhere else involving science.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend knows, but he does not want the House to be reminded of it, that this government in its stewardship of the public purse has had to cut back a number of programs.

Certain programs have not been cut back at the same level as others. One is grants to provinces, to persons and to individuals. The other field is aboriginals. Another field of federal government spending that has not been cut back nearly as much is science and technology. Science and technology, if anything, has been indulged in the over-all priorities of this government and we are going to continue to do that.

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EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

Today Carleton University has once again reminded Canadians of the truth, that their government has mastered the politics of illusion. The authors of *How Ottawa Spends* reveal that this government's tangled web of technical trickery has silently robbed Canadian children and their families of more than \$4 billion since 1986.

Will the minister explain how he expects to hide the darkest years for Canadian children with even more rhetoric of *Brighter Futures*?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Madam Speaker, I understand that publication was released. It is an interesting publication because it covers one-half of government operations.

It talks about spending. It does not talk about taxes and tax levels. It does not talk about income. It does not talk about the problems Canada has both provincially and federally with its deficits. It does not talk about the problems we have in the country.

I want to point out in no uncertain terms the changes that have happened in the social field over the last nine years. For example, old age security, GIS and SPA have gone from \$11.4 billion to \$20.2 billion. These are for senior citizens. There has been an average annual increase of 6.6 per cent over that period of time. Canada Pension Plan has gone from \$4.2 billion to \$14.6 billion, an increase annually of 14.8 per cent. Child benefits have gone from \$3.9 billion to \$5.1 billion, an average increase of 3 per cent each and every year over the last nine years.

I could go on and on. Maybe in answer to a supplementary question I could continue my list.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Madam Speaker, it must be Groundhog Day again because the government cannot see its shameless shadow.

The government already wears the dunce cap in the G-7 when it comes to unemployment, but today we learned that our savagely high jobless rate masks the fact that 16 per cent of Canadian workers are looking for full-time jobs but cannot find them, leaving a record number to rely on part-time work.

Will the Minister of Employment and Immigration tell the over two million Canadians who cannot find full-time work why, when it comes to job creation, this government calls in sick?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Madam Speaker, I understand why the hon. member only asks one question every two weeks. It takes her that long to write it, obviously.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

• (1435)

Mr. McDermid: If she can be cute so can I.

Obviously those at the meeting of the OECD at the present time where a number of countries are represented, including Canada, are seized with the worldwide problems of unemployment and job creation. The problem is that at the same time they are wrestling with