

this Progressive Conservative Government chose to waste \$41 million of the taxpayers' money by relocating the Drummondville prison in the Prime Minister's riding. These people want to know why the Government did not take \$30 million to give immediate refunds to the 50,000 early retirees who are penalized as a result of the profligacy of the Prime Minister and the Progressive Conservative Government.

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SMALL BUSINESS

SUCCESS OF LEMAIRE ENTREPRENEURS OF DRUMMONDVILLE

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): To highlight Small Business Week, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay homage to three Drummondville entrepreneurs who stand as a shining example for all small- and medium-sized businesses, the Lemaire brothers of *Papiers Cascades*, Bernard, Laurent and Alain. With their father Antonio and their sister Madeleine they set up a system to recycle old paper in Drummondville. Their company has expanded over the years and has now become a multinational concern. Among other achievements, *Cartonneries Cascades* now operate plants in Quebec, Ontario and the United States, as well as three more in France.

Established in 1964, Cascades now include 25 companies with 3,200 employees and have posted sales of \$400 million this year. The shares of this group, issued in November 1982 at \$5 and valued at more than \$150 last July, reflect the outstanding success of Quebec's *Régime d'épargne-actions*. The Lemaïres and other such entrepreneurs are the vanguard of a new generation of Quebecers whose efforts and endeavours strengthen the Canadian economy.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER INTERVENE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The repeated cut-backs in vital programs for the National Research Council are a betrayal of the Prime Minister's promises during the election, a betrayal of our young people, and are making this country more vulnerable in our ability to compete world-wide. Will he overturn the extremely harmful cuts to the National Research Council made by his Minister of Science and Technology and re-establish the priority that he gave Canadians to understand would be paramount in his Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my right hon. friend will know, the Government of

Canada inherited a situation where, over the previous 15 years, per capita contribution of GNP to research and development had declined to the point where it was the lowest of the OECD countries, I believe. We had to begin the process of improving that situation as a percentage of GNP because we believe that it is very important in enhancing our competitive position, aside from the obvious benefits that it brings to the country. We are committed to a strategy of increasing the per capita contribution of GNP to research and development. That has been our policy. We are in the process of developing it and we hope to achieve substantial results from it.

[Translation]

DEGREE OF PRIORITY ACCORDED RESEARCH

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was inaccurate in his summary of the facts. In any case, during the election campaign he made a personal commitment to increase the National Research Council's budget by 20 per cent. Since he became Prime Minister, he has cut the NRC's budget by \$120 million. Why does the Prime Minister think that spending a \$41-million surplus on a prison in Manicouagan riding was a more important priority for this country than spending the same \$41 million on research?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party keeps picking on the people of Port-Cartier. Yesterday, one of his Members was picking on the people of Matane, after ignoring them for 15 years, and the Hon. Member would have us believe there is a connection with what we spend on research and development. We have announced a policy that is clear and that promotes research and development. We intend to work together with the private sector, universities and R&D institutions, and by the time we finish our term, I think we will have substantially increased the per capita contribution to vitally needed research in this country. Ours is a forward-looking and realistic policy which reflects not only our country's needs but also its economic potential.

• (1420)

[English]

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could cite an authority that the Prime Minister might recognize. After learning of the cut-backs to the National Research Council our Nobel Prize winner, Dr. John Polanyi of the University of Toronto, was asked what advice he would give to young scientists in Canada today and he replied: "I think I would go to the United States". Can the Prime Minister conceive of a more damning indictment of his governmental policy than to have one of the leading scientists of our country recommend to the young people of Canada who are interested in scientific research that their only recourse is to go south of the border to the United States?