

*Government Orders*

was able to put together one of the best teams on the globe for cranial facial research and reassembling the facial bones of these children so that they could look like normal human beings, enjoy life and relationships with other children and become fine, positive, contributing citizens of Canada.

However, the Humana Hospital in Dallas—Forth Worth found that it could give more money to this type of research than Toronto or than the province of Ontario was willing to give. As a result, they were able to take Dr. MacDonald and his team of cranial facial specialists down to Humana Hospital in Dallas—Fort Worth and set up what they call the International Cranial Facial Institute, which is now the premier institution in the world for doing this kind of research and for providing treatment to children.

The worst thing about that is that now Canadian children are being sent to Texas to get this type of treatment and Canadian doctors are going there to become involved in this kind of research because Canada, as a result of its foolish priorities or its lack of priorities in this area, neglected to provide the necessary funding.

We also tend to believe that research is going to be done in universities but, as I mentioned before, the current cuts in transfer programs to the provinces is going to result in a cut in funding to research. In my discussions with presidents, deans and department heads in universities over the last four or five years I have heard that there has been a massive outflow of quality scientists from Canadian universities to the United States and to other areas where there is a priority for investment in this kind of research. The priority for the investment seems to be lost in Canada. That loss of priority is reflected in the funding cuts to the National Research Council and the lack of priority that this government seems to allocate to research and development in this country.

The parliamentary secretary was talking about the problem of the deficit, saying that we have to take money from scientific research in order to deal with the deficit and that when the deficit is no longer a problem we will come back and fund scientific research. By that time it is going to be too late. The reputation of our research

institutions will have suffered. The ability of our research institutions to recruit people will have suffered and the respect that scientists around the world have for research institutions will have suffered as well.

As a result, Canada will be spending millions upon millions of dollars more than if the government had maintained those facilities and the funding and kept the scientists rather than doing the silly thing that it is doing now, which is transferring money from pure scientific research to paying off the deficit.

There are other things that can be cut and we pointed out in previous speeches in the budget debate exactly where those cuts could take place without seriously harming science and our economy. These kinds of cuts do disastrous damage to our economy and disastrous damage to our scientific establishment.

We congratulate the Liberal member for Ottawa South for bringing up this resolution in the House.

*[Translation]*

**Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, my honorable colleague raised quite a few points. The government continues to favour also research done in laboratories, in universities and elsewhere.

*[English]*

The greatest problem is transferring out the knowledge gained to the industry where it will do the most good and increase productivity.

*[Translation]*

That is the primary role the National Research Council has been playing for some time in basic research within the context of its long-term applied research based approach which may have general applications in the industry and in governmental programs. The universities also play a very important role in basic research, and the government supports such activity through granting councils and centre of excellence network programs.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, not only will basic research be maintained at the National Research Council, but it will be intensified through co-operation with the academic sector and other research agencies.